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AM I DOING OK?

Robert Lindsay on the insecurity of being an actor
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Police call for lower alcohol limit

Drink-drive cases up by 18 per cent

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE number of motorists caught drinking and driving over the Christmas and New Year holiday rose by 18 per cent compared with last year. The total — 5,209 in England and Wales — was the second highest this decade.

There were also more accidents in which one of the parties had been drinking — up 4 per cent from 939 to 974.

The figures prompted police and road safety campaigners to call for a lower alcohol limit for drivers and for the police to have greater discretion over when to give people breath tests. John Bowis, the Road Safety Minister, said: "Too many drivers are still ignoring the very clear message that drinking and driving wrecks lives."

But he added: "These figures reflect the fact that all police forces have applied a policy of breath-testing every driver involved in an accident. More tests result in higher figures."

It was still difficult to establish, however, whether this year's increase really meant that more people were drinking and driving — or simply that more were caught — since no overall figures were available for the number of tests carried out. Most forces refuse to give such statistics.

Of those that did, Merseyside reported that it tested three times as many drivers as it did last year — but far fewer were found positive: 97 out of 11,668, compared with 135 in 1995. Gloucestershire, Norfolk and Cumbria also reported a smaller percentage of tested drivers being found over the limit. In Northumbria, however,



one in four drivers tested was over the limit, and in Cambridgeshire the number of arrests for drinking and driving or refusing a breath test was three times as high as over Christmas 1995. West Mercia also reported a 35 per cent increase in the number of positive tests, up from 76 to 103.

The figures for Scotland and Wales cover the period from 6am on December 28 to 6am yesterday. In Scotland, the number of people tested was up by 80 per cent to 100,000 in December, of whom 1 per cent were found to be positive.

Police chiefs were disappointed that a £1.2 million advertising campaign had not brought a further improvement on last year's drop in the number of positive tests. Paul Manning, secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers' traffic committee, thought that a plateau might have been reached and that the message might have to be reinforced.

The police want greater "unfettered" powers to stop

and test drivers and they are also in favour of reducing the legal alcohol limit for driving from 80mg per 100ml of blood to 50mg.

Richard Freeman of the AA agreed that the campaign may now be stuck and called for a new initiative. He said: "It's quite obvious that the people drinking and driving are doing so quite deliberately and are ignoring advice. The police must be allowed to better target suspects. If that means police parking down the road from a pub, then so be it."

"It's the threat of being caught and prosecuted that's the main threat which may prevent people from doing it — that threat must be increased if necessary."

The RAC's campaigns manager, Richard Woods, said: "Despite high profile campaigns, the latest figures show there's still a minority, a hard-core of drinking drivers. We need to break through the mentality that these drivers have that drinking and driving isn't an offence. If we can explain the consequences of drink-driving in human terms as well as in financial terms — the long-term impact on the drink-driver's own livelihood — perhaps that's the way forward."

Dave Rogers, road safety adviser for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, also backed those calling for a lower alcohol limit, saying: "We believe the only long-term solution is a gradual reduction to zero at stages agreed by the police and relevant authorities. If people do not listen to the warnings tougher action will have to be taken."



Nicola Dixon: visited club to show off new look after dying her blonde hair black

Parents mourn schoolgirl killed in church garden

By Daniel McGrory

THE parents of a 17-year-old schoolgirl who was found battered to death on New Year's Day paid tribute to their daughter yesterday in a poignant handwritten note seeking public help in the hunt for the killer.

Nicola Dixon had stayed at home in Sutton Coldfield while her family went to visit relatives in Northumberland on Tuesday because she had been due to take her driving test. "Ironically, the test was cancelled because of the snow," the family said.

That evening she had joined friends at a social club for half an hour, showing off her new look — she had dyed her blonde hair black. At 9.45 she left to walk three-quarters of a mile to a public house in the centre of Sutton Coldfield, where she intended to meet a girlfriend.

But she got only halfway there before being battered about the head, sexually as-

saulted and left for dead. The police said yesterday that her injuries showed that she put up a valiant struggle, which passers-by might have mistaken for larking about. Her body was found the next morning in a garden next to the rectory.

The Rev Daniel and Valerie Connolly had arrived from Plymouth this week and Mrs Connolly was showing some friends around the garden of the empty curate's house next door when she saw the body in the snow.

Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Roberts said: "It's most likely that she was killed in the garden. Because of the freezing conditions it will be impossible to tell exactly when she died. We haven't found a weapon. It could have been something as basic as a brick or a stone. Her family are in deep shock. You can imagine how they feel."

Rita and Andy Dixon and their 16-year-old son, Gra-

ham, said in their statement that they were devastated. Describing Nicola as "the sort of girl any parent or brother would want", they said: "She was a happy girl who was popular, talented, hard-working and lived her life to the full. We want to help you to get the public to help to find whoever did this to her. We and the rest of her family and her friends are going through hell and we don't want anyone else to suffer in this way."

Miss Dixon had been studying for A levels in business studies, art and photography. She was also planning to take her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award in the summer. The family statement added that since moving to Sutton Coldfield they had made many friends; Miss Dixon had become involved with the Beavers group and helped at an infants' school. "We know they will all miss her. We are missing her too."

New grass stays green whatever the weather

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

BRITISH scientists have developed a grass that always remains green and they believe it will be the answer to the prayers of many a groundsman and gardener.

The grass continues to look fresh even in drought-like conditions that would turn normal grasses brown. It has been bred by researchers at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, at Aberystwyth, Wales, who claim it stays green even after it withers.

The development is an outcome of the discovery of a natural, mutant, strain of meadow fescue, which is wide-

ly sown in pastures. The scientists found that the mutant stays green because it lacks an enzyme that breaks down chlorophyll, the green pigment in plants that is used for photosynthesis. The identity of the enzyme is being kept secret for commercial and patent reasons.

The trait has now been transferred to other grasses, including some that are being developed commercially. The hope is that they will find their way on to football pitches, golf courses, parks and other public places. The grass also has great potential as a protein-rich winter animal feed.

5,000 McJobs as chain expands

McDonald's, the American hamburger chain, is planning to create 5,000 jobs in Britain this year, spending £116 million on opening up to 110 new restaurants. Most will be drive-through restaurants paying new staff by the hour.

McDonald's said yesterday that it had created almost 4,500 new jobs in Britain last year by opening 90 new restaurants. Page 23

Shares tumble

The FT-SE 100 index closed down 61.1 points at 4,057.4 in the wake of sharp falls on Wall Street, where dealers fear an interest rate rise. The Dow-Jones Industrial Average fell 101 points on New Year's Eve. Pages 23, 19

It's not the calories that count in the fight on flab

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

DIETS based on counting calories are less effective in keeping weight down than changing the type of foods eaten, researchers have found.

The toughest part of post-Christmas dieting is preventing hard-earned pounds from creeping back on before summer. Scientists have discovered that people who swap chips for pasta, but allow themselves unlimited amounts, do better than those who try to restrict the total quantity.

The progress of a group of 43 overweight women who had lost almost two stone (27lb 11oz) on average on a crash diet was followed over two

years. The results showed that those who cut down on fat and ate more carbohydrate had preserved three times as much of their initial weight loss at the end of the period as those who counted the calories and tried to restrict what they ate.

Half the group were given a 24-page booklet which advised them to spread butter or margarine thinly, use the frying pan sparingly and eat more bread, potato and pasta. They were allowed to eat as much as they liked provided that they stuck to low fat, high carbohydrate foods.

The rest of the women were given

colour-coded counters designed to allow them to calculate the caloric content of different foods. They were allowed up to 1,875 calories a day, but this was reduced if their weight started to rise.

After two years the low fat, high carbohydrate group were still more than a stone (7lb 9oz) below their starting weight while the calorie counters were less than half a stone below it (5lb 8oz).

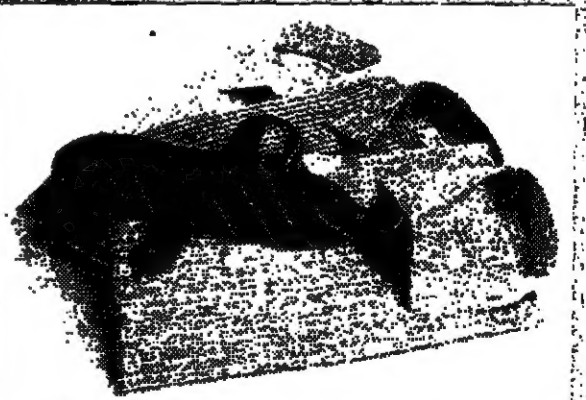
The authors of the research, which was conducted in Denmark and published in the *British Medical Journal*, say: "Our study shows that a low-fat,

high-carbohydrate diet consumed ad lib was superior to a more traditional fixed-energy intake diet in maintaining weight and preventing relapse two years after a major weight loss."

Professor Soren Toubro and his colleagues at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen say that the rise in obesity in the West — it has doubled in Britain between 1980 and 1991 despite a reduction in fat consumption — is attributable to the fall in physical activity.

No miracle cures, page 5

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BBC took part in discussions about producing Fred West film

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE BBC discussed making a documentary-drama about Frederick West with the film company that bought rights to the mass killer's confessions through the Official Solicitor.

It emerged yesterday that producers at the BBC's Pebble Mill headquarters in Birmingham held preliminary discussions with the Portman Entertainment Group about making a serious drama that would delve into the mind of one of

Britain's most notorious killers. John Hall, Portman's former chief executive, said that the company's development team had been exchanging ideas with opposite numbers at the Pebble Mill drama department.

He indicated that the project was still actively under discussion when he left the company two weeks ago. One option was to produce a Screen One reconstruction. Last night the BBC agreed that it had been approached by Portman and that discussions were held but

insisted that a decision had been taken not to proceed. The BBC refused to say when the decision was made or at what level.

The Portman Entertainment Group, which paid £12,000 three weeks ago for the rights to confession tapes, memoirs and blue movie videos belonging to the serial killer, has shelved the project for the time being after a public outcry.

The involvement of the BBC drama department is likely to provoke fresh debate after Lord

Mackay of Clashfern's decision to review the law governing the duties of the Official Solicitor. It comes shortly after the BBC's reconstruction of the events surrounding Sara Thornton's killing of her husband, Malcolm, in *Killing Me Softly* was heavily criticised as biased and politically motivated.

The BBC also came under fire from Jayne Zito over plans to film a drama surrounding her husband's death at the hands of a paranoid schizophrenic. A BBC spokesman at Pebble Mill said: "An idea based

on the Fred West story was suggested by Portman to the drama department, one of many hundreds they receive each year. They looked at it but decided not to develop the idea with them. There is no question of any BBC involvement in this production. The submission of the idea never reached pre-development stage."

The Portman Entertainment Group is a long-established independent film and TV production company. John Banks, the company chairman, said: "A produc-

tion company of Portman's size will acquire a considerable number of rights to material or stories during the course of a year, only a tiny number of which result in completed productions."

The process from option acquisition to completed production may take several years and the board of Portman has approved no such plans in the case of the West material.

"When and if the topic comes before the board of Portman for full consideration, the sensitivity of the

subject matter will, of course, be taken into account."

John Hall was the chief executive two months ago, when the company entered into the contract for an option on archive material relating to events at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester. He said it was always the company's intention, if it decided to make the film, to produce a serious docu-drama about a serial killer's mind. The options came to him through a literary agent. He said: "It was never going to be a horror movie."

Health Secretary's departure from brief puts Tory leadership contenders under starters' orders

Dorrell leads the field in race to succeed Major

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE spectacle of a Health Secretary calling for a re-drawing of Britain's relationship with the European Union was a stark reminder yesterday that the general election could just be the forerunner for a more bitter battle later this year.

Although all the contenders will deny it, the Tory leadership race is on. Stephen Dorrell's decision to stray well beyond his departmental brief to expound his views on Europe was portrayed by his opponents yesterday as a blatant bid for power. However, he is but one of a dozen Cabinet ministers who would be disappointed not to figure in any list of potential runners in the Tory stakes. Rightwingers proliferate, but there is as yet no hint as to who will emerge as the Right's favourite.

Mr Dorrell is one of the group of Cabinet ministers who for several months have been jostling for position, moving to the Right on central policies, particularly on Europe, and generally reminding their party that their claims should not be forgotten.

If the Conservatives lose the election outright, John Major would almost certainly resign the party leadership this year. A heavy defeat could provoke such turmoil within Tory ranks that Mr Major would go swiftly and let them fight it

out this spring. However, should Mr Major and party elders prefer a more orderly transition, the rules state that the annual election should not take place until three months after the opening of Parliament. That could preclude a leadership poll before the summer recess.

Senior MPs believe that Mr Major may be prepared to delay his departure to prevent John Redwood from having a head-start over candidates he would prefer. As the man who resigned from the Cabinet to challenge Mr Major in 1995, Mr Redwood does not have to be too coy about his ultimate ambition. The campaign team that backed him then is ready

OTHER RUNNERS

Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, 9-2 fav. Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, 5-1. Michael Portillo, Defence Secretary, 5-1. William Hague, Welsh Secretary, 6-1. John Redwood, former Welsh Secretary, 7-1. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, 10-1. Norman Lamont, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, 50-1 and slipping. **BT Betting from William Hill**

to roll again. Like Michael Heseltine in the period between his resignation from Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet in 1986 and his challenge to her leadership in 1990, Mr Redwood has been using his extra time to build support among party activists.

Among the Cabinet leadership contenders, the heavyweights, Mr Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke and Michael Portillo, long considered as inevitable runners, need do no more to sketch out their campaign pitches. Critics would say that Mr Portillo is now playing the loyalty card to draw a contrast with his rival, Mr Redwood.

The "jostlers", have been shifting their stances to suit a post-election parliamentary electorate that will be more Euro-sceptical. This group would include Mr Dorrell; Michael Howard, the Home Secretary; Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary; Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary; and Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary.

The "dark horses" who may be at the starting gate include Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, and thought by many to be Mr Major's favoured choice; William Hague, the young Welsh Secretary; and Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor.

Leading article, page 19



STEPHEN DORRELL
Health Secretary
Age 44

□ Campaign form: has shifted a long way to the Right since working as an aide to Peter Walker, "wringing wet" Energy Secretary. Has endeared himself to rightwingers but dismayed allies on the Left by taking an increasingly robust line on Europe. Keen to raise profile within party by voicing opinions on issues beyond his health brief.

□ Strengths: youth seen as a useful weapon against Tony Blair. Sure-footed minister. □ Weaknesses: rightward shift seen by natural allies as going too far too swiftly. Accused of political opportunism and lacking charisma.



MICHAEL HOWARD
Home Secretary
Age 55

□ Campaign form: increasingly fervent Euro-sceptic. Shown by recent Tory records to be the most active Cabinet constituency campaigner. Several anti-crime measures have improved his rating in the party. Is attracting attention of Portillo and Redwood followers within right-wing 92 Group.

□ Strengths: sharp legal mind and political guile have made him ferocious Commons performer and frontline campaigner against Labour. □ Weaknesses: poor voter appeal. Defeats in the courts have prompted accusations of on-the-hoof policy-making.



MALCOLM RIFKIND
Foreign Secretary
Age 50

□ Campaign form: manoeuvred skillfully on Europe last year before securing current post amid clamour for a more Euro-sceptic Foreign Secretary. Sent out hard-line signals against single currency and a federal Europe before appointment but has been careful since to follow Foreign Office middle line. Has carefully maintained close contact with MPs from both wings of the party.

□ Strengths: highly intelligent, charismatic and effective campaigner. □ Weaknesses: past U-turns on devolution seen as evidence of inconsistency.



GILLIAN SHEPHARD
Education and Employment Secretary
Age 56

□ Campaign form: seen previously as outside contender from the middle ground but has signalled rightwing credentials by taking a strong line in Cabinet in opposing moves towards a single currency. A close friend of John Major but was prepared to defy him by backing rightwing calls for corporal punishment.

□ Strengths: credited with restoring some of party's severely damaged reputation on education. Voter-friendly. □ Weaknesses: post-Thatcher aversion among Tory MPs to electing a female leader.



MICHAEL FORSYTH
Scottish Secretary
Age 42

□ Campaign form: one-time right-wing radical has toned down his ferocity since joining Cabinet. Has won admiration for his handling of the Dunblane tragedy and the BSE crisis in Scotland. Despite poor Tory poll record in Scotland, his campaigning against devolution and Labour's "tartan tax" has helped to arrest decline in support.

□ Strengths: energetic minister. Strong support among right-wing backbenchers. □ Weaknesses: faces a massive battle to save his 706 majority in Scotland at the general election.

Minister amazes colleagues with EU rethink call

Continued from page 1

going for the past few years. The set of institutions that was designed for a Europe of six in 1958 are not going to be able to deal with the issues facing a Europe of 30 or more states."

Mr Dorrell said that it was only by focusing on the wider European issues rather than on the single currency question that the Tories could bring home their differences with Labour.

He said they should go into the election campaigning for a low-tax EU and against the moves towards a more regulated "social Europe" that were endorsed by Tony Blair. "It is more relevant because both Labour and the Conservatives have said we are not going into a single currency without a referendum," he said. "The electorate are not being asked to decide the single currency issue at this election."

In a BBC Radio interview, he said: "We need to negotiate with our partners a relationship into the next century which reflects the reality of the next century, that is to say, the need to win in a much more flexible and competitive global market place."

The minister's aides said that he had been taking a more Euro-sceptic line in recent speeches and statements. "It is something that has happened over a

period of time. It is not a Damascene conversion," one said. However, it is known that Mr Dorrell has been a leading contributor to two recent Cabinet debates on the single currency in which Mr Clarke has been asked to come up with more information on how the Government would judge whether to go into monetary union.

Leading article, page 19

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IRA bomb 'was plan for mass murder'

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE IRA was accused yesterday of planning the mass murder of police officers and soldiers when it abandoned a 1,000 lb bomb in the grounds of Belfast Castle on New Year's Eve. The RUC put on display the home-made explosives and detonating cord, which were packed into two bins in the back of a van.

Superintendent Mike Brown, the RUC's local sub-divisional commander, said: "I now have no doubt that the intention of the terrorists was to engage in what can only be described as the mass murder of police officers and perhaps soldiers assisting police. The intention was to lure police into the castle grounds for that purpose."

The bomb, inside a white Renault van parked in a sweeping driveway, was ready to be detonated once RUC officers and back-up troops drove into the castle grounds but before the IRA could lure them into the area a civilian became suspicious. The lives of wedding guests, New Year's Eve revellers and people in neighbouring homes were also in danger, police said.

The huge haul of home-made explosives had been inside two wheeled bins, connected to a detonator and packed into the van, stolen in Belfast the day before and fitted with false number plates.

Photograph, page 22

Tories see election triumph in stars

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Tories will today brush aside the opinion pollsters and instead place their faith in the stars with the launch of a mailshot of horoscopes predicting how voters might suffer under Labour.

Members of the public will be able to look up their sign of the zodiac in the so-called "horror scopes" to see how their lives would be changed if Labour wins office. In contrast, a more optimistic horoscope emphasises how life would improve if the Tories win a fifth term.

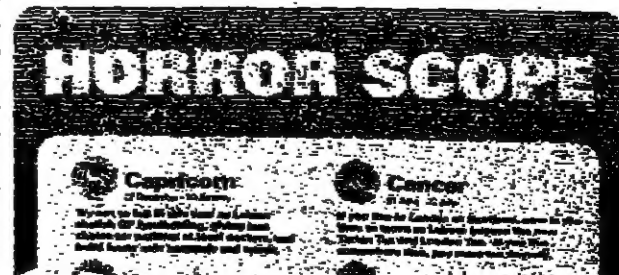
The gimmick marks the opening of the Tories' £7 million new year advertising campaign, which begins in earnest on Monday when a new poster is unveiled across the country.

According to the horoscope, thought up by the advertising company M&C Saatchi, Taurians will be living "in the fastest economy in Europe". But if Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister, they should get rid of the company car because it will be more highly

taxed by Labour. Pisceans can expect better schools for their children because the Tories are putting £830 million into education this year. But under Labour, they must "try not to get any older this year as Labour reduce a single person's pension by £20 a week."

The cut is based on an assumption by the Tories that Labour's plans for a flexible retirement age will mean more people stop work aged 60 instead of 65. Labour claims the scheme will not cost the taxpayer any more money than at present. If so, the Tories say, the amount of pension a person receives will have to be cut because the existing budget will have to be shared between more people.

Voters born under Virgo can either "win the lottery as income tax falls again" under the Conservatives or look forward to a minimum wage of at least £4 an hour, "unless your job is one of the millions lost because of this Labour policy."



The mailshot predicting doom under Labour

Hume will not stand at election

John Hume, the leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, yesterday made clear that he would stand down as an MP at the general election. Asked on Irish Radio whether he would confirm his candidacy for the Foyle seat, which he has held since 1983, Mr Hume replied: "No". Mr Hume, 59, added that he was "heavily burdened" with his work as a Euro MP and an MP at Westminster.

CPS challenge

Belmarsh magistrates' decision to give bail to Michael Gallagher, 53, from Ears Court, south-west London, accused of being involved in the IRA attack at Heathrow in 1994, is to be challenged at the High Court today by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Nut bar warning

People with nut allergies were last night warned to check for wrongly wrapped chocolate bars containing almonds. Cadbury's admitted that about 3,000 bars containing fruit and nuts were sent out in Dairy Milk wrappers after an error at one of its factories.

Bible recovered

A 1632 Bible has been found four years after it was stolen from Edinburgh University. A dealer in Central Scotland became suspicious when he was asked to value it.

Major puts family on poll agenda

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR is to put the defence of the family and traditional British institutions at the heart of his appeal for a fifth Conservative term of office.

In an introduction to a book to be published next week, the Prime Minister gives what he calls a "heartbeat of my own personal instincts", and warns of the dangers of giving power to Labour politicians, "who have spent their lives denigrating our values, ideals, and achievements". He writes: "Both the

family and our nation are essential to the security of the individual citizen. They provide the familiarity, the sense of belonging, the emotional and physical support that everyone needs to face the hopes and the tribulations of life with confidence, optimism, and resolution."

He says that the institutions he wants to protect are not only the monarchy, Parliament, judiciary, Armed Forces and police, but the parish council, churches, local football and cricket teams, schools, hospitals, charities, and pubs.

Our Nation's Future is a collection of the Prime Minister's recent speeches, in

which he has set out the background on which the next Conservative manifesto will be based. The Prime Minister hits out in the introduction at the "modern so-called thinkers" who claim that the country would be "better off" if the institutions could be swept away.

The essential purpose of Conservatism was to conserve what was good and tried, and to reform where it was essential. He writes: "But it must also be a society that has little tolerance for those who abuse natural generosity to the unfortunate in order to live off the results of the toil of others."

Ancient boundaries may be replanted after ruling

Victory for 'hedgerow hero' - or thorough nuisance?

By PAUL WILKINSON

BRITAIN'S most successful amateur litigator yesterday scored a landmark court victory that could lead to the replanting of ancient hedgerows.

The decision was a personal triumph — and an 81st consecutive victory — for the public rights campaigner Colin Seymour. Using an 18th-century Enclosure Act, he brought the action after the parish council in his home village of Flamborough, East Yorkshire, voted to pull up a 53-year-old hedgerow in order to make a new bowling green.

At Hull County Court, Judge Cracknell made a declaration requiring the parish council to "maintain for ever" the hedge, which will protect wild flowers and nesting birds. He said: "It is a singularly indistinguishable hedge. It is very badly maintained, unkempt and straggly, but it does have one claim to fame: it is an enclosure hedge, dating back to the latter part of the 18th century. The Act and law are still good and the parish council is still bound by it."

Mr Seymour, 63, said: "I'm absolutely delighted. The judge gave the most comprehensive judgment which we could not have wished for in our wildest dreams. Other people throughout the country may be able to use the judgment in their own actions to stop the destruction of road-



Colin Seymour yesterday: 81st consecutive victory

side hedgerow." Environmentalist campaigners claim that miles of lost ancient hedgerow will have to be replanted.

Peter Bowler, campaigns officer for the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, which supported the case, said: "We believe the judgment is retrospective, and could lead to many thousands of lost hedgerows having to be replanted. Between 1946 and 1974, 5,000 miles were grubbed out each year in the name of agricultural efficiency." The trust believes there are about 40,000 miles of ancient hedging elsewhere in England and Wales, controlled by around 4,500 Acts similar to the 1765 Flamborough Enclosure Act.

Peter Geldard, of the Country Landowners Association, said the court decision would

have to be examined extremely carefully. "Enclosure awards made at various stages during various centuries did differ, so I think it is very difficult to tell at this point whether this particular test case will have the result of protecting all hedges in enclosure awards. We do accept that there is a need to protect the most important hedges."

Judge Cracknell himself added a word of caution: "It would be wrong to read too much into this case in terms of significance for roadside hedges generally. There are over 4,000 enclosure Acts, and whether a provision is binding has to be judged in each individual case. Mr Seymour has a particular reputation for establishing himself in this area of law. He may be a hero

to some but, to others, I have no doubt he is a thorough nuisance."

His opinion was echoed by Trevor Pearson, a Flamborough councillor. He said: "I would like to clearly state that the parish council is and always has been conservationist. Nearly 80 per cent of the hedge is dead. The proposed hedgerow green was to be built on allotments used for years as a rubbish tip and eyesore. If Mr Seymour had been living in the village for more than 30 years, and was not just a relative newcomer, he would know that it would not have an entrance to its school, library or village hall if we had not removed other hedges."

Mr Seymour retired to Flamborough six years ago from South Yorkshire, where he successfully fought court battles against British Coal, Yorkshire Electricity, British Rail and British Waterways. He lives on £40 weekly invalidity benefit and estimates he spent £3,000 of his savings on the case.

His celebrated career began 20 years ago when, on social security, he fought the National Coal Board over plans for open-cast mining round his house in Methley, Yorkshire. More recently he challenged Humberside County Council and had a local highway opened.

Leading article, page 17

After 60 years, man of steel changes pants

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IT'S NOT a bird. It's not a plane. And it does not look like the old familiar Superman. After six decades in the same red, yellow and blue togs, the comic book superhero is getting a change of costume and some new powers to go with it.

From March, the muscle-bound crusader from the planet Krypton will don body-hugging tights in electric blue and dump his trusty cape. His new trademark will be a jagged "S" emblazoned on his chest like a bolt of lightning. Mike Carlin, Editor of DC Comics, said: "He still wears an 'S' on his chest but it's not the one we're used to."

The revamped Superman will enjoy new "energy-based" powers. Instead of flying, he will "zap" from place to place like a streak of electricity, although sources say he will have trouble landing at first. Bullets will no longer bounce off him, but will pass straight through or get trapped in his "energy matrix".

His alter ego, Clark Kent, will pay a price, however. In future, the four-eyed Kent, a reporter for the *Daily Planet*, will suffer from such distinctly human ailments as head colds and torn muscles.

Superman was created by the artist Joe Shuster and the writer Jerry Siegel in the

1930s, while both were in their teens. He made his first comic-book appearance in June 1938, and has survived many a plot twist since.

He was killed off in 1992, but was revived nine months later. Last autumn saw the publication of *Superman: The Wedding Album*, after his marriage in the series shown on television. Perhaps, as a result of a fulfilled emotional life, Superman seemed to lose his touch. His powers "dwindled away" after his marriage to Lois Lane, Mr Carlin explained. "He tried different ways of boosting his energies and his powers, and all these things have combined to alter him."



The old Superman, with cape and pants

The new improved Superman has extra powers

Dunblane threat man is banned from schools

By STEPHEN BARRELL

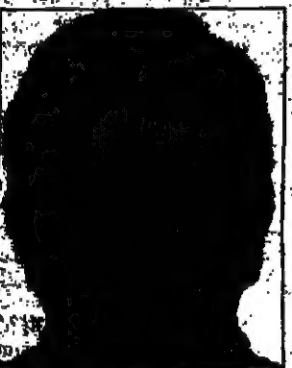
A FORMER soldier who told a prison chaplain he planned to "do a Dunblane" was banned from schools in south-east London yesterday, the day before his release from jail.

Greenwich council won an interim injunction against David Jennings, 50, forbidding him from entering or trying to enter schools and council buildings, owning or carrying firearms and interfering with children, teachers or council employees.

Jennings, from Ebbw Vale, a twice-married father of ten children, has previous convictions for possessing a firearm in public and assaulting council officials.

He made the threat to a chaplain at Highpoint prison, Suffolk, last summer after becoming angry at Greenwich council's treatment of his children in care. Immediately after learning of the hearing, the authority alerted all head teachers and parents, circulated his picture and began a review of security at schools.

Backed by Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney-General, the council's solicitors were originally granted a High Court hearing next Monday, the day before Jennings's release from Swaleside prison, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, after serving 30 months for assault. However, on New Year's Eve Greenwich learnt he was to be released today, because of time served in



Jennings: never meant to carry out threat

custody while on remand. The authority sought and was granted an emergency hearing. After studying detailed maps of the area, Mr Justice Summerville granted the interim order pending a full hearing on Monday.

Rosie Brocklehurst, a spokeswoman for Greenwich, confirmed after the hearing that the injunction "banned Jennings from going within 250 yards of some schools and council buildings. Given that he made threats and used the words 'do a Dunblane' we felt we had to take action."

James Bancroft, Jennings's solicitor, said his client had never intended to carry out the threat and "wanted to return home. Although Jennings accepted the temporary injunction he would contest the full hearing because of the "onerous" 250-yard exclusion zone, Mr Bancroft said.

Chaplain loses jail job 'for swearing'

By RUTH GLEDHILL

RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A PRISON chaplain has lost his job after complaints about alleged smoking and swearing. Staff said that Father Paul Brooks' behaviour at Durham Prison and Low Newton remand centre was "not appropriate".

Senior officials at the two establishments decided that the Roman Catholic chaplain should not be given a full-time job when his six-month probation period expired. He was living in accommodation provided by the Prison Service until last week.

He is expected to meet the Catholic bishop of Leeds, the Right Rev David Konstant, to discuss his next appointment. Jack Dodd, spokesman for Bishop Konstant, said he had not spoken to Fr Brooks but added: "The idea that smoking and swearing constitutes a culture shock to the inmates and staff of Durham prison makes one raise one's eyebrows a little."

A Prison Service spokesman said: "It is an internal staffing matter." Fr Brooks was previously employed by the RAF chaplaincy service and before that at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Bradford. He is currently on sick leave, but has lodged an appeal through the Prison Officers' Association. He is understood to be claiming that his contract has not been renewed because he spoke out against conditions.

Prince and the P-Ts opt for skiing over queueing

By EMMA WILKINS

THE Prince of Wales delayed the start of his day's skiing in Switzerland yesterday when he refused to jump the queue for a cable car.

The Prince who is on holiday with his younger son Prince Harry and three female companions, was at the back of a queue of 200 people at the foot of the Gotschna mountain in Klosters. Before striding off in search of another mountain with a smaller queue, he told an aide: "I'm sorry, I'm not going to queue jump with all these people here."

Also with the Prince are Tiggy Legge-Bourke, 30, his personal assistant, and the Palmer-Tomkinson sisters, Tara, 25, and Santa, 27. The girls are daughters of the Prince's old friends Charles and Patti Palmer-Tomkinson. The couple, who are known as the P-Ts, were in the royal party when an avalanche killed Major Hugh Lindsay in 1988.

Santa, who organises publicity for society jeweller Theo Fennell, is named after a



Santa, left, and Tara Palmer-Tomkinson

bumper Santa barley crop which her father produced on the family farm in Dummer, Hampshire, in the year of her birth. As a concession to his half-Argentinian wife, the father agreed to a minor amendment to "Santa" — Spanish for saint.

Her younger sister, who writes on society matters for *The Sunday Times*, has long been friendly with Prince William and Prince Harry. While she is a celebrated London party-goer, Tiggy Legge-Bourke prefers the invigorating air of High-

grove, the Prince's Gloucestershire estate. Mrs P-T, 54, was seriously injured in the Klosters avalanche. She underwent seven operations to put 40 steel screws and six metal plates in her legs which were broken in the accident. Her husband, Charles, 55, is a former Olympic skier whose own father was killed near Klosters. The Prince is staying at the Walschhof Hotel, less than 100 yards from the P-Ts Klosters chalet.

Snow reports, page 42

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NOW SHOWING ODEON WEST END

AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU NOW

BY TIM JONES AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

An overnight temperature of -12C (10F) was recorded at RAF Benson, Oxfordshire. During the day, the coldest location was Hastings, East Sussex, where the thermometer struggled up to -5C (27F).

Thousands of people decided to extend the new year break and stay at home. Motoring organisations dealt with thousands of calls from stranded motorists, but the

Andrew Mitchell, Social Security Minister, said that the department was studying the feasibility of incorporating this extra data from the Meteorological Office.

the less-well-off with heating bills is paid if the average ground temperature is at freezing point or less for seven consecutive days between November and April.

Mr Mitchell said on television that the Met Office was


human beings not buildings, and if you applied that to this scheme you could easily have different buildings in different parts of the street treated very differently. You would then make the scheme very unfair," Mr Mitchell said. "We will

Forecast, page 2

By ALAN HAMILTON

The winter of 1963 was memorable for its endless blizzards and huge drifts whipped up by gale-force

A swan on the frozen Thames at Marlow



MEDICAL BRIEFING

beneath their legs and thighs to compensate for this exposure to the elements. This common condition is known

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Scientists confirm hair of the dog does cure hangovers

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

DRINKERS have sworn by it for centuries but now scientists have proved it is true: a morning-after tipple does stop hangovers.

A small dose of alcohol taken the morning after a night of drinking can head off a hangover by blocking the metabolism of the substances in drink that cause the symptoms.

Research has shown that it is not the alcohol in the drink that triggers hangovers but substances called congeners. These are complex organic molecules, such as methanol and acetone.

The main culprit is thought to be methanol, a large quantity of which is present in red wine. The body metabolises it to form formaldehyde and formic acid, which have been linked to the typical hangover symptoms of headache, nausea and fatigue.

A small quantity of ethanol, the type of alcohol found in drinks, blocks the formation of

formaldehyde and formic acid, providing "an effective treatment for hangovers", according to Dr. Ian Calder of the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London. Dr. Calder says half a glass of sherry or wine is sufficient to stave off a hangover, although the type of drink is immaterial so long as it contains a small quantity of ethanol.

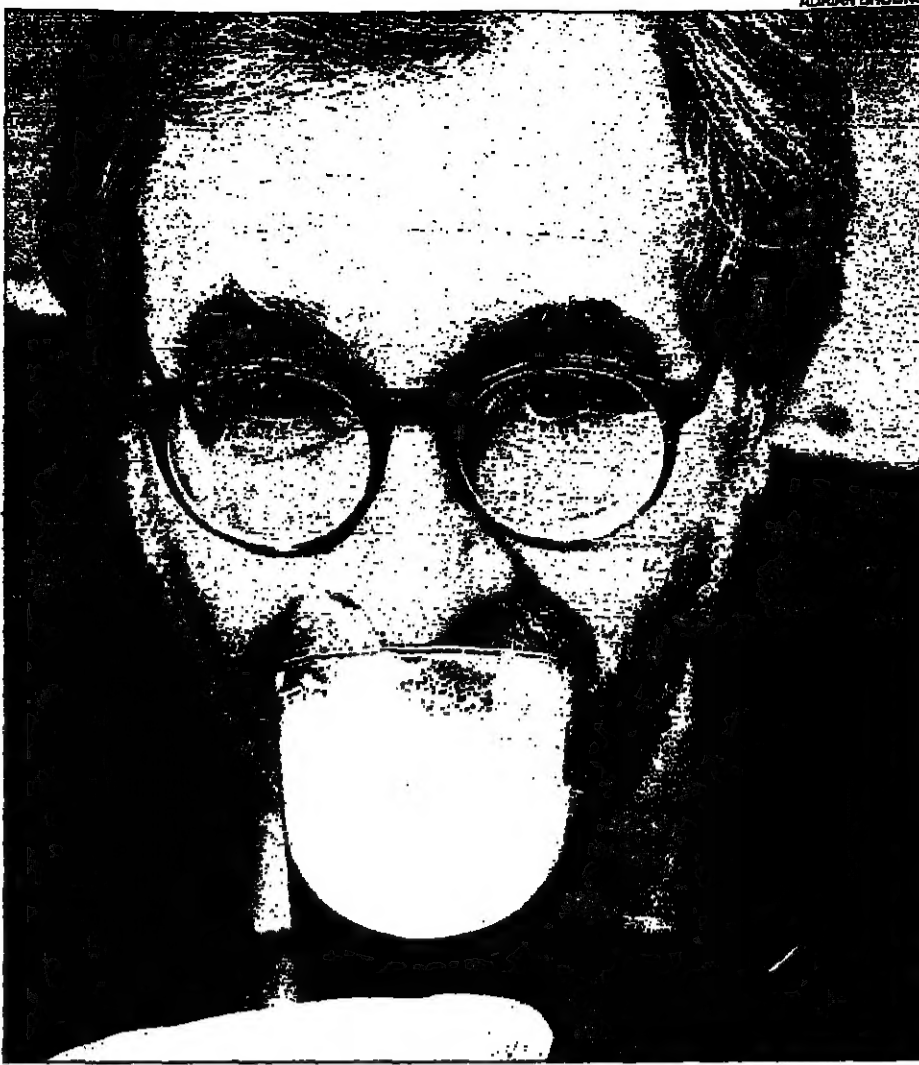
"Most top hotels have hangover cures often made to secret recipes. But they are all based on small amounts of alcohol disguised so it doesn't turn the stomach," Dr. Calder, a consultant anaesthetist, says.

However, drinking to stave off a hangover is not without hazards. An American expert, called Dr. Earlywine, speculated in the *Journal of Addictive Behaviour* in 1993 that fear of hangovers could explain why some people become alcoholics: they carry on drinking to avoid the unpleasant symptoms.

Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, Dr. Calder says that the personality of the drinker and the type of drink are more significant than the quantity of alcohol drunk. Between a quarter and a half of drinkers claim not to suffer hangovers. The symptoms are worst in people who become angry or depressed while drinking, feel guilty, have a neurotic personality or have suffered distressing events in the past 12 months.

Dr. Calder, a wine and malt whisky lover, does his best to avoid hangovers by combining drinking with eating and swallowing two ibuprofen or paracetamol with plenty of water before bed.

"A completely effective treatment is arguably undesirable since the fear of hangover prompts most people to moderate their ethanol intake," Dr. Calder says. "Even moderate amounts of ethanol can be damaging so a penalty for consumption is in our interest."



Ian Calder says half a glass of sherry or wine is sufficient to stave off a hangover

Pollution suspected as study shows big fall in male fertility

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MEN'S sperm production has halved in a decade, according to a study that will heighten fears that male fertility is falling dramatically.

Scientists, unable to find any link with alcohol, smoking or drugs, are blaming poisons in the environment. A recent theory says chemical effluents in the environment could mimic the female hormone oestrogen. For the first time, evidence has been found that men's testicles are becoming significantly lighter. Scientists studied post-mortem examinations of 528 men aged 35 to 69 who died in Finland between 1981 and 1991.

During that decade, the proportion of men who had the normal biological processes leading to sperm production fell from 56.4 per cent to 26.9 per cent. There was a significant increase in men in whom no mature sperm cells were seen.

Men with a complete loss of such cells rose from 8 per cent to 20 per cent and those with a reduced number of cells rose from 31.4 per cent to 48.5 per cent. Testicles fell in weight

from 18.9 grams in 1981 to 17.8 grams in 1991. Researchers from Helsinki University, led by Dr. Jarkko Pajainen, spoke to relatives to check for lifestyle details such as drinking.

In today's *British Medical Journal*, they report: "Declining spermatogenesis was not explained by different exposure to drugs or the incidence of smoking or alcohol consumption, and thus more research is clearly needed." Toxins in the environment have become the most likely culprit.

In 1992, research showed that sperm counts fell by almost 50 per cent in half a century, from 113 million per millilitre in 1940 to 60 million in 1990.

French scientists reported a 2 per cent decline in sperm counts of Parisian donors between 1973 and 1992. The sperm's swimming ability had declined. A British study produced men born in the 1970s produced 25 per cent fewer sperm than those born in the 1950s. At an annual decline of 2 per cent, men born 60 years from now could be infertile.

No miracle cures, slimmers are told

By LYN JENKINS

THOSE hoping to recover their pre-Christmas shape could shed more pounds in cash than weight, a consumer group has said. As the multi-million-pound slimming industry hones its new year sales pitch, slimmers have been cautioned that there are no miracle cures.

The Consumers' Association magazine *Which?* found many claims about weight loss to be misleading. Slimming clubs performed well but the researchers said that anyone could set one up without any formal qualification or knowledge of the subject. The five leading national clubs, however, all found a degree of favour, although the psychologists and dietitians assessing them said slimmers should choose carefully to find a regime tailored to their needs.

Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness Clubs (£3.75 a 1½-hour session; joining fee £6) were praised for being the only one offering exercise, but it meant there was less time to deal with other aspects of dieting such as motivation. UK Slimmers Club (£3.50 for 1½ hours; fee £6.50) had a well-balanced diet plan but

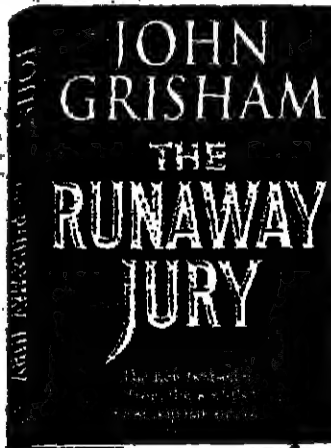
the weighting of food could be too rigid for some people. Slimming Magazine Clubs (£2.90 for 1½ hours; fee £6) demand a weight loss of at least 5lb a week and offer 17 diets but may prove disheartening to the very overweight.

The magazine found that Slimming World (£2.90 for 2 hours; fee £6.95) focused on the psychological effects of being overweight but the idea of "sin foods", some of which were fruit or vegetables, left the researchers uneasy.

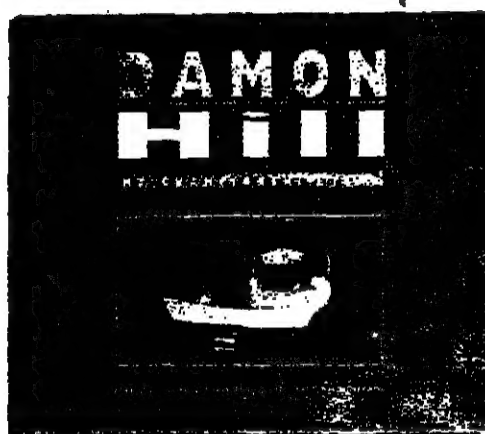
At Weight Watchers (£3.95 for 1 hour; fee £9) the regime could help to develop healthy lifestyle changes but calorie-counting could deflect a slimmer from thinking about food and exercise in terms of health and enjoyment.

The range of meal replacers, calorie-controlled portions of food and drink, made worrying claims, the magazine says. "It is hard to see how replacing meals with a milkshake or biscuit bar can be described as healthy or natural." Some of the top-selling diet books were considered "helpful" but the magazine says the simple way to diet is to restrict energy-rich foods and take more exercise.

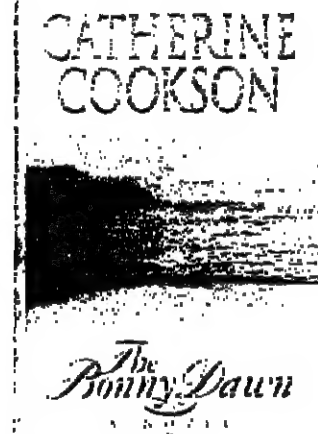
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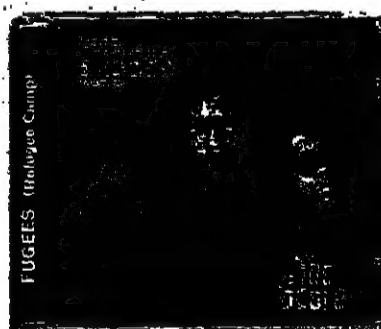
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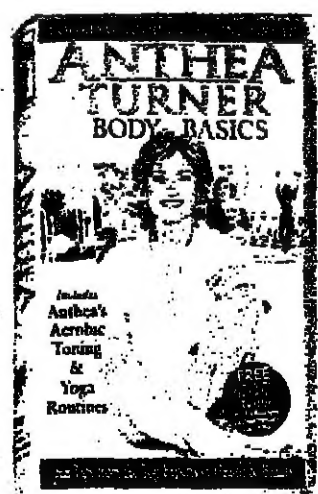
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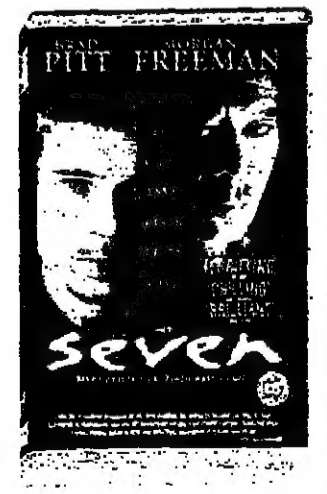
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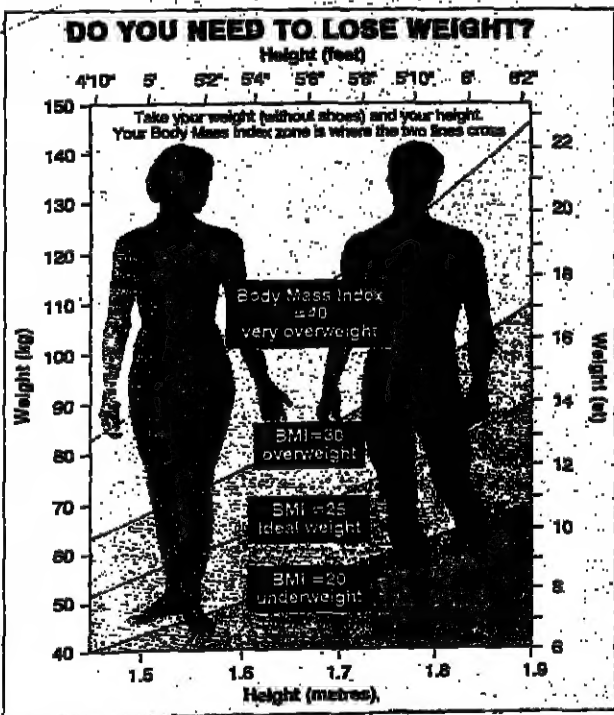
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Small packages are best, tour poll says

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

HOLIDAYMAKERS who choose small, independent tour operators are more likely to be satisfied than those who choose the travel giants, according to the consumers' magazine *Holiday Which?*

In response to the question "Would you recommend this company to a friend?", the readers' poll put Swiss Travel Service top, followed by French specialists VFB Holidays, the Travel Club of Upminster, Sunvil, Simply Travel, Cunard, Eurocamp and Virgin Holidays. All are likely to see repeat customers, says the magazine, while First Choice, Unijet and Sunworld were "likely to be one-off wonders". Inspirations was last after a series of flight delays in the summer.

The findings were attacked by leading tour operators. Richard Carrick, Airtours'

marketing director, said: "The survey is full of holes. It is comparing apples with pears by judging mass-market travel companies taking millions of people away against niche specialists providing expensive, highly restricted programmes for a few hundred people."

Nigel Jenkins, marketing director of Unijet, said: "People would not be buying package holidays in their millions if they were not happy with what they are getting."

Patricia Yates, editor of the magazine, denied that there was any real difference between the views of her readers and those of the general public. She said: "We check our findings against other surveys and, if anything, our members complain less about standards than the general public."

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Monopolies watchdog plans curb

Electrical giants deny colluding on price of goods

By EMMA WILKINS

ELECTRICAL manufacturers denied price fixing yesterday after a report that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was set to recommend better protection for consumers.

Under new proposals, the makers of domestic electrical goods could be banned from using recommended retail prices to control the prices in shops. A report in the *Economist* says that the commission has discovered a "complex monopoly" in the sale of electrical goods including televisions, video recorders, dishwashers and refrigerators.

The watchdog body has been investigating pricing in the domestic electrical appliance market for the past two years and is due to report to Ian Lang, the Trade Secretary, in April.

Electrical goods manufacturers deny the existence of price fixing, which is illegal. But consumers remain perplexed by the similarity of prices for many goods in shops from John O'Gratts to Lands End.

A spokesman for Sony said yesterday that price fixing was against the law but he conceded that the whole area was a "sensitive issue" because of the

MMC report. The spokesman said: "Prices are among the lowest in Europe."

"Over the past ten years, while the prices of all consumer durables and services have gone up by over 43 per cent, the average price of audio-visual products has decreased by 23 per cent."

A spokesman for Dixons denied allegations of price fixing and said that similarity of prices was due to the extremely competitive nature of the market.

"If you find the same TV in different shops at about the same price, then that is an example of exactly how competitive our market is. Every-



Carsberg: report led to investigation

one is looking at their competitors to see if they can undercut each other by a penny or a pound," he said.

"We certainly refute any allegations of price fixing but we would want to reserve any future comments until after the MMC report is published."

A spokesman for Comet said the company could not comment until the MMC report was published but pointed out that its customers were offered refunds if they found an article on sale locally at a lower price.

The MMC was asked to investigate in the wake of a report by the Office of Fair Trading, which found there was a *prima facie* case of price fixing in the market.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, the Director General of Fair Trading, said at the time: "Our information indicates that some manufacturers accounting for well over 25 per cent of the supply have been engaging in practices designed to sustain retail price levels."

These include refusing to supply to retailers who sold the goods below the manufacturers' recommended retail price and outlets such as discount warehouse clubs," he said.



The Queen waits to cross a road while out riding with a groom at Sandringham yesterday. Wearing her usual beige riding mac and hood, the Queen and her companion spent 45 minutes riding over snow-covered fields.

Labour to fund computer lessons for all teachers

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

NEW teachers will be required to pass examinations in computer skills under a Labour government, David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, will announce tomorrow. Labour's plans for a technology revolution will depend on all teachers being familiar with the Internet, Mr Blunkett will tell a conference of educationists in Sheffield.

He will also unveil a £150-million scheme to give existing teachers computer lessons. To escape the party curb on pre-election spending promises, Mr Blunkett will say all the money will come from lottery cash currently allocated to the Millennium Fund.

The speech will detail how the party will make good promises by Tony Blair to create a "national grid" of computing expertise by developing the use of the Internet in schools. Labour plans to work with BT to ensure every school has access to a source of worldwide information.

However, Mr Blunkett will tell the North of England Education Conference tomorrow that far too few teachers are in touch with the computer age. He also believes that the five days a year set aside for teacher training in schools could be better spent on new technology.

Less than a third of teachers have so far taken even a basic computer course. Labour's analysis of school inspectors' reports reveals that three schools in ten fail to provide

the full curriculum in information technology, either for lack of equipment or a shortage of computer-literate staff.

Mr Blunkett will say: "Too many of those in teacher training, those teaching teachers as well as existing teachers, lack basic confidence in using technology." Research by the Department for Education and Employment has disclosed that half of primary school teachers and seven out of ten secondary teachers do not use a computer regularly.

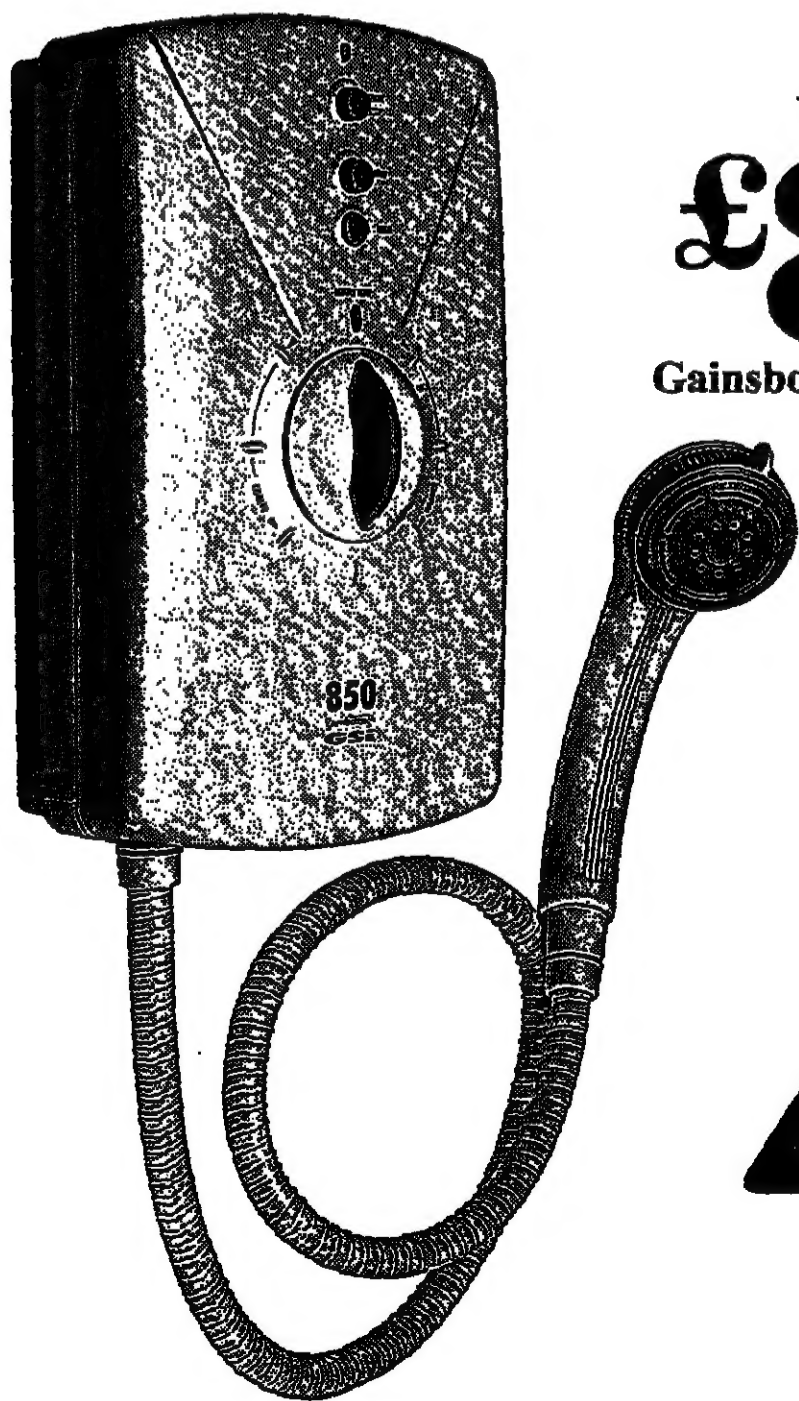
Mr Blunkett will add: "The number of computers in the home and the level of coverage possible through BT and cable in Britain places this country in a unique position to expand our lead in IT for the economic prosperity of the future and the creation of jobs in the global economy. We need to equip our educators to play their part at the cutting edge of that world of tomorrow."

One fifth of lottery profits, expected to top £1.6 billion by the end of 2000, goes to the Millennium Commission and the different political parties are devising their own ways of using the money from 2001. Labour estimates its plan to train teachers in computing would cost £30 million a year for three to five years.

Schools may also be required to put on after-school classes to train children who show special promise in computer use.

Education, page 35

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Call for action on rheumatoid arthritis

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS are being crippled by rheumatoid arthritis because their general practitioners fail to refer them for early specialist treatment, an expert said yesterday.

Research has shown that the best way to overcome the disease and to reduce disability is to attack it aggressively in the initial stages, according to Elaine Hay, consultant rheumatologist at the Haywood and Stanfield Hospital, Stoke-on-Trent. Dr Hay, of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, said that only a few years ago, doctors would treat rheumatoid arthritis conservatively at first. Aggressive treatment was used only when it persisted.

"Most specialists now know that attacking the disease in its very early stages is crucial," she said, and patients thought to have rheumatoid arthritis should be seen quickly by a rheumatologist. She praised the treatment

now available. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs reduce inflammation of the joint as well as pain. "Second line" drugs, including anti-malarials, penicillamine, gold and sulphasalazine, attack the activity of arthritis by reducing pain, swelling and stiffness and slowing the rate of joint damage.

Dr Hay was opening Arthritis Education Week, which aims to alert patients and GPs about treatments and to offer information about the benefits and side-effects of the drugs. She highlighted other types of therapy, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and education from nurse specialists. The best opportunity for overcoming the disease was to use these during its early stages.

Drugs & Arthritis leaflet from Arthritis & Rheumatism Council (PO Box 177, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 7TQ; enclose SAE)

More cash cleans up beaches

BRITAIN'S beaches are becoming cleaner because tourism-conscious local authorities are spending more money on them. The Tidy Britain Group said yesterday that a survey of the 100 top resorts showed 91 beaches reached acceptable standards and that more than 40 were very clean. The group said local authorities were spending almost £2.5 million a year on cleaning beaches and the results were starting to show. Sandbanks in Poole, Dorset, and Sandown on the Isle of Wight were marked at over 90 per cent. The cleanest resorts and beaches were in the South West and East Anglia, while most of those below standard were in the North West, Scotland and Wales.

The group singled out six beaches as the most improved: Cromer in Norfolk, East Looe in Cornwall, Painscliff in Devon, Scarborough South, Sheringham in Norfolk, and Rhyl, North Wales.

Villagers' whip-round keeps post office open

By TIM JONES

RESIDENTS of a small Welsh-speaking community have clubbed together to buy the post office and shop, ten years after buying the pub.

The people of Llanfyllen, Caernarfonshire and Merionethshire, were determined to prevent their village losing its focal point. Ten years ago they paid £40,000 for the pub, called The Victoria, and now they have helped to keep the shop open.

Most of the cost, £19,500, was met by the local council and a European Union grant but the residents needed to raise a further £6,000 to buy the shop from the owner who is retiring.

John Jones, chairman of the community committee, said: "We went around every house and came back with £500 more than we needed. The post office and the pub are essential to the life of the village. There are no other amenities."

"We were not prepared to stand by and let the heart and soul be ripped out of our community. No one else was going to help us so we decided to buy them ourselves."

Llanfyllen had a population of 600 but that halved when nearby granite quarries were closed. The primary school was shut because of the population decline but the locals turned it into a community centre and youth club.

The shop has been leased to Ffion Medi Llywelyn, 24, who lives in the village with her husband, Dillon. She said: "There is a wonderful community spirit here."

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Captain of Cabot replica sails into storm over 'sexism'



Samantha Brewster: sex shouldn't come into it

By Damian Whitworth

A TOP yachtsman is being accused of sexism after he said that women were not strong enough to take part in a voyage recreating John Cabot's 15th-century discovery of Newfoundland.

David Alan-Williams, a member of the crew of a New Zealand catamaran that holds the Jules Verne record for circumnavigating the world in 74 days, said a handful of women had applied for a place on the three-masted ship *Matthew* but none had matched the tough requirements. "The women had the enthusiasm and skill but they could not meet the strength factor. This is a

tough voyage in a tiny vessel and requires physical strength." Samantha Brewster, 29, the first woman to sail single-handed around the world from east to west against prevailing winds, said yesterday: "I am totally lost for words. On a crew it is about teamwork rather than brute strength. This is just an excuse for being sexist. Sex doesn't come into it. It is totally outrageous." She added: "This is a very unfortunate

attitude to take. I am absolutely astonished by it. This is not going to look good and they are going to get a lot of criticism."

Lisa Clayton, who circumnavigated the globe single-handed in 1995, said the decision was sad. "I don't agree with it," she said. "It is a real shame that no women are going to be on the ship. It seems so old-fashioned and a bit sad. I would have thought on a 20-strong crew there would be room for both sexes. The strongest sailors are not always the best."

A spokeswoman for the Royal Yachting Association said: "Our policy is that yachting is an equal opportunity sport. With the current technology it is fitness rather than strength that matters but obviously this is an old boat. They should have told women not to apply if that was the case but obviously they couldn't because that would be sexist."

just the way it has so far turned out."

The *Matthew* will leave Bristol on May 2 to retrace the discovery of Newfoundland in 1497 by John Cabot, the Genoese-born Venetian navigator who was based in Bristol and claimed North America for England.

The modern crew will, like their counterparts of 500 years ago, have to face severe conditions including icebergs and gales in the North Atlantic.

The *Matthew* is expected to arrive at Bonaville, Newfoundland, on June 24 to launch a programme of celebrations. One place in the crew is being kept open in the hope of finding a candidate from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The Duke is patron of the *Matthew* project.

Royal yacht decision 'may be too late for millennium'

By Damian Whitworth

BRITAIN'S leading yacht designers yesterday condemned the Government's failure to make a decision on the future of the royal yacht *Britannia*. As a display of designs for a replacement vessel went on display at the London International Boat Show at Earls Court, they said that unless a decision was made immediately a new ship would not be ready in time for the millennium celebrations.

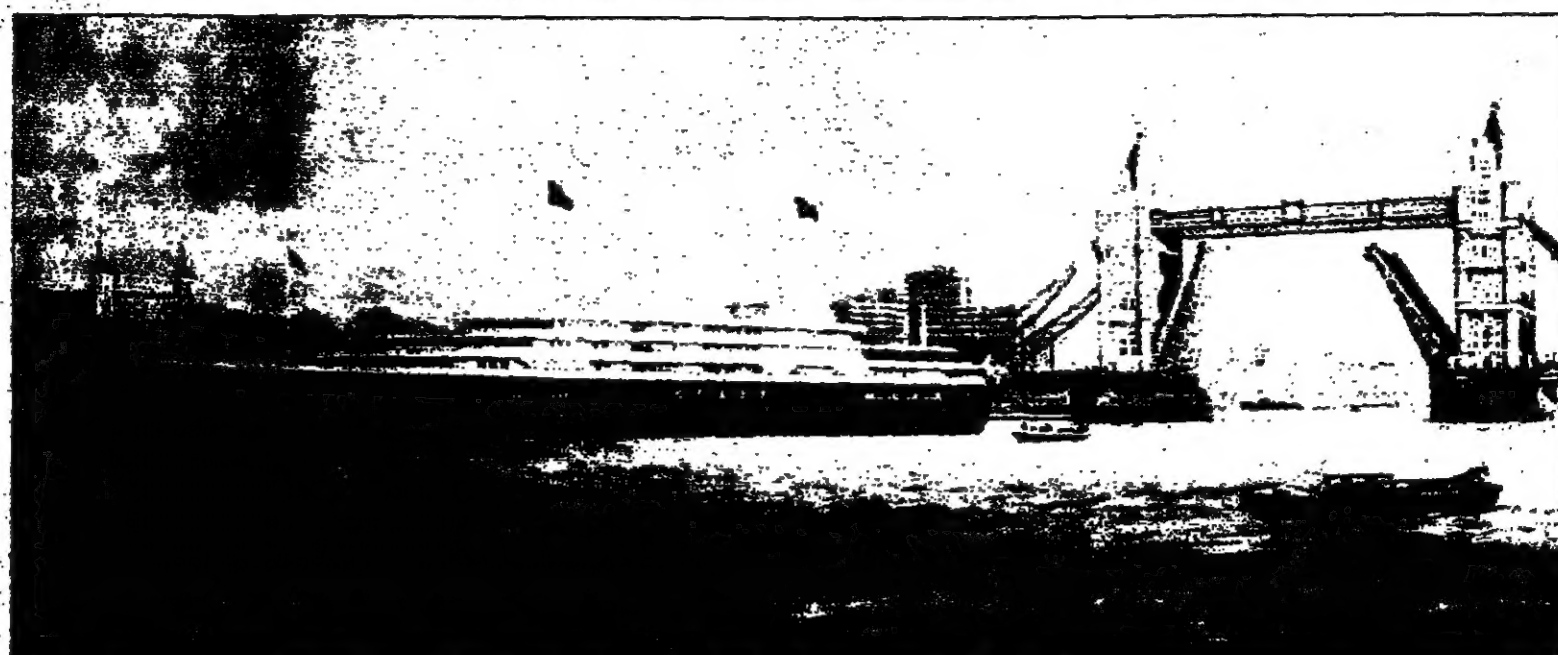
"The *Britannia* will make her final voyage later this year when she sails to Hong Kong to collect the last Governor, Chris Patten. It is believed that a Cabinet committee set up to discuss the issue of a new ship has not met for nine months."

"No one is getting a decision from this Government and several days when a decision was supposed to have been given have gone past," said Sir Donald Gosling, co-chairman

of the Royal Yacht Consortium, which backs a scheme for a new vessel. He believes there is a misplaced fear in government circles that commissioning a new yacht would be seen by the public as an unnecessary extravagance and cost too much.

"A lot of people might think that the decision has something to do with the failure to make a decision. But a recent newspaper poll showed that 83 per cent of the population wanted the yacht retained or a new one built. If the Government has the guts to say 'get on with it' they could have a vote winner."

A new yacht would have a central role to play in the millennium celebrations, he said. "It is so important to have a ready, British must have its 'national identity' worldwide and there is no better way to do that than with



Thames view: this artist's impression from Terence Disdale Designs is among proposals on show at the London International Boat Show

a royal yacht. It would also be a big attraction moored at Greenwich."

The consortium argues that a number of the plans were for yachts that would cover their own cost, because they would be more efficient than the 44-year-old *Britannia* and would be used to promote trade. *Britannia* is said to have helped to secure more than £2 billion of trade for Britain during the past 10 years.

Among the proposed new ships are the Royal Sail Training Ship, which would train young cadets. Other schemes

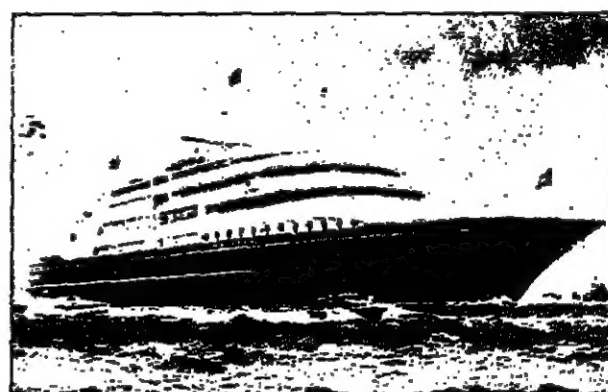
include a modern interpretation of the current yacht, a combined royal yacht and cruise ship, and a royal exhibition ship that could be used for royal and commercial purposes. The schemes have been estimated to cost £70-£100 million.

Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays Bank which is also supporting the initiative, said the Government was undoubtedly concerned about the sums involved. But he added: "We are not trying to promote a royal yacht that is extravagant. We are trying to promote

a royal yacht that will promote British industry."

"During its last voyage, the royal yacht will be promoting British trade in seven different locations. In each, we will get a premier audience which you would not get otherwise. If it was just a floating trade palace we would not get the same audience, people like the yacht."

He added that he was confident the yacht could be financed under the Government's Private Finance Initiative, which shares the burden with private companies.



Sea view: design by GEC Marine/Winch Projects

Vanishing tiger falls prey to poachers and profiteers

By Daniel McGroarty

THE helicopter dipped low over the ravaged forests of the Bikh Valley in the former Soviet Union as the hunters, who had paid handsomely for the trip, leapt from the open door, telescopic rifles in hand, scouring the snows for a Siberian tiger.

Their airborne safari is illegal but the authorities in this remote region bordering China are virtually powerless to stop local mafia who organise such hunting trips and then sell the skins and the tiger bones themselves often for more money than they can make from drug smuggling.

The gunmen seek only the pleasure of the kill but the mafia trade in the burgeoning market for powdered tiger bone and the animal's penis, sought as a traditional Chinese cure or aphrodisiac. The



A preserved tiger's head seized in Hong Kong

tiger has existed for over two million years and at the start of this century there were eight species, totalling more than 100,000 animals, stretching between Bali and the Caspian

Sea. Today fewer than 5,000 wild tigers remain and three species — the Bali, Caspian and Javan — are extinct.

The Siberian will soon join them if logging companies are allowed to continue to plunder the tiger's habitat in areas such as Primorsk territory, home to most of the last 150 of the species. The forests of Siberia contain over a fifth of all remaining forests on the planet, but in both legal and illegal timber trades.

Until Tusk Force and other charities helped to fund Operation Amrita to protect such animals, an estimated 60 Siberian tigers a year were being poached from these forests, which conservationists predicted would lead to extinction of the creature by 2000.

Undercover agents have helped to trace illegal logging operations that assist the tiger poachers and although 30 such enterprises were exposed in the Primorsk territory in 1995 the authorities have so far prosecuted no one.

Steve Fisher, head of conservation for Tusk Force, said the priority now was for more funds to help to finance the anti-poaching teams and for the Siberian tiger sanctuary that the Russian Government set up in November 1995. Moscow does not have the cash to fund it.

Tiger bones are ground up as a cure for ulcers while the brain is thought to remedy laziness and acne. Tiger penis soup sells for £500 a bowl, marketed as a health tonic.

Despite the worldwide ban on trading body parts, demand is growing for traditional medicines in much of the Far East, making a nonsense of the idea that the international community speaks with one voice in defence of this glorious animal.

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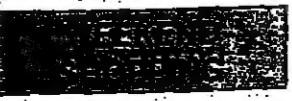
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Turkeys are going cheap

SUPERMARKETS are fighting the post-Christmas dip in trade by returning to competing on the price of staple items (Glen Owen writes). They are also selling off seasonal lines, meaning good deals on turkey and chicken.

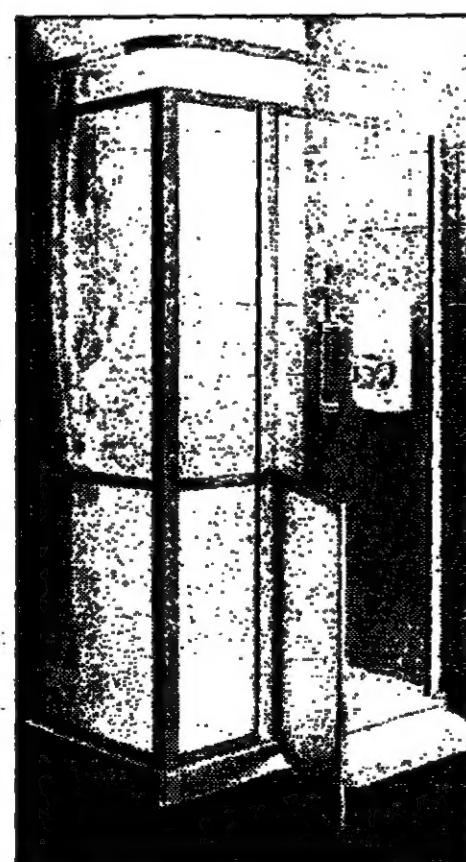
Advertised offers include: Asda: fresh turkey crown £1.99 a lb, chicken nuggets £1.69 for 18, beefburgers £2.49 for 24, cod fillets in crumbs £2.25 for 800g, tomatoes 99p a kg, kiwi fruit 89p for 15. B&M: Mexican-style pork sausages 99p for 454g, unsmoked Dutch back bacon £1.39 for 500g, baking potatoes £1.89 for 5kg, instant coffee granules 89p for 100g.



Co-op: McCain Chippy Chips 59p for 900g, chicken nuggets £1.39 for 454g, grade A frozen garden peas 79p for 900g, Farmhouse Vegetable Mix 99p for 900g. Debenhams: rump steak £2.99 a lb, Harrod's: Salmon en croûte £3.99 a kg, aubergine pakora 99p for 100g, white balsamic vinegar £4.95 for 500ml bottle. Iceland: plaice in breadcrumb £2.89 for 600g, haddock in tomato and herb sauce £1.29 for 200g, low fat waffles 12p for 89p, 12-inch Gigantic Pizza £1.99.

Sainsbury: whole lamb shoulder £3.45 a kg, fresh rainbow trout £2.65 for two, turkey escalopes £3.39 for 500g, crumpets 12 for 39p, Grumpy Smith apples £1.49 a kg, Somersdale Chilled salmon fillets £1.99 for 240g, fresh Quorn pieces £1.49 for 175g, mixed salad 69p for 180g, fine beans 69p for 250g, Little Gem lettuce 49p each. Tesco: King Edward potatoes £1.39 for 5kg, Portuguese Rocha pears £1.09 a kg, closed cup mushrooms 99p a lb. Safeway: British half gammon on bone smoked £2.84 a kg, grade A frozen turkey 89p a kg, crumbed ham 69p a lb, frozen prawns £2.62 for 450g, swedes 19p a lb, raspberry pavlova £1.89 for 300g.

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Marseilles club run by Tapie 'used £11m for fixing matches'

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

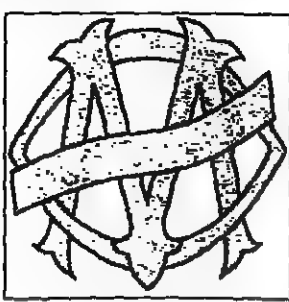
OLYMPIQUE Marseilles, France's former football champions, mispent more than £101 million (£11.3 million) on rigging matches and transfers under the presidency of Bernard Tapie, the bankrupt businessman and former Socialist minister, *Le Monde* said yesterday.

The corruption was said to have happened between 1987 and 1993 when the money was spent to fix matches by bribing players and referees and to lure star players to the team.

The latest revelations in the prolonged Tapie saga came from a 305-page report by the Marseilles magistrate, Pierre Philippon.

He has been investigating the club's accounts for four years. "Olympique Marseilles had misused important sums in order to reduce, or even suppress, the hazards which invariably exist in a football match," said *Le Monde* yesterday, quoting from the lengthy report in which the word corruption features frequently.

"All the means possible, including the most illegal, were used" under M Tapie's presidency, the report concluded.



The club's emblem

Fictitious loans, false invoices to offshore companies and inflated payments to agents were the preferred methods, according to the French daily.

As a result of M Philippon's report, 20 people will now appear in court, including M Tapie and most of the former directors of Olympique Marseilles who were involved in the club during the period in question.

M Tapie, a parliamentary deputy who in the 1980s served briefly as minister in a Socialist Cabinet, is already under investigation for fraud over the affair. He is also awaiting the result of an appeal against a two-year jail sentence handed to him in May for his part in a match-rigging case in 1993.

M Tapie, who took over the presidency of the club in 1986,

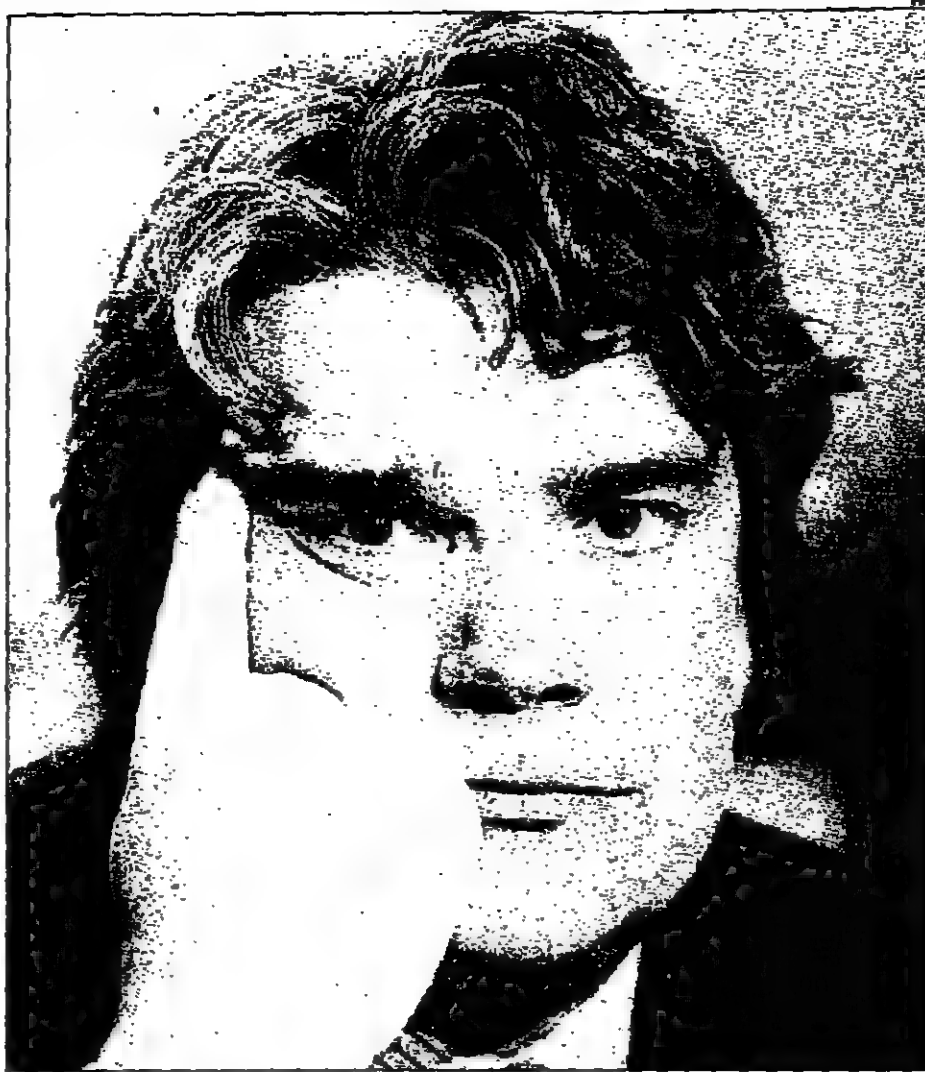
used his soccer acquisition as a launchpad for other ventures and to attract politicians and business people.

He undoubtedly invigorated Olympique Marseilles, which under his presidency dominated French and European soccer, winning the French championship five times in a row and the European title in 1993 when the club beat AC Milan 1-0.

The buccaneering entrepreneur rode on the club's success to become a national hero before dragging the team down with him into scandal and corruption.

The son of a plumber who became rich through a series of hard-nosed, asset-stripping deals in the 1980s, M Tapie was France's symbol of a self-made man in a society where it is extremely difficult to rise above the limitations of tradition and education.

According to *Le Monde*, M Philippon's report suggests that M Tapie's actions during his presidency of Olympique Marseilles were motivated by his personal ambitions to become Mayor of Marseilles.



Tapie, who is said to have used "all the means possible, including the most illegal"

Soccer, wrote Jean Giraudoux, the great playwright of the 1930s. "It is not so much the king of sports as it is the king of games."

"All the great games men have played involve a ball. For a ball is one of the few things in life that escape life's rules."

M Tapie may reflect that the rules now appear to have caught up with him.

□ Bakers' victory: Bakers are savouring a victory over supermarkets under a new law protecting their bargains from cut-price rivals in a campaign to revive the fading

French appetite for bread. Up to 5,000 shops selling bread in France will have to take down "Bakers' signs" under the laws in force from New Year's Day, the latest in a long series of safeguarded artisans and village corner shops from the ravages of competition. (Reuters)

World's poshest B&B plays host to party fat cats

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WHEN the Democratic Party's biggest donors or fundraisers visit Washington, their favourite place to stay is not the Four Seasons or the Ritz-Carlton, but the White House.

Investigations into the Democrats' campaign finances disclose that President and Mrs Clinton have often invited six-figure contributors to spend the night in the Lincoln Bedroom or the Queens' Bedroom on the same floor as the First Family's private quarters.

However, a spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee said yesterday that there was no set price to qualify for a White House stay for those who give hundreds of thousands of dollars to the party. Amy Weiss Tobe said: "We do not promise a night at the White House in exchange for donations. It is up to the White House who gets invited." Even so, the five-star treatment has come to be seen as an inducement and a reward for so many big-money donors that the White House has earned the nickname of the "Fat Cat Hotel".

Among those enjoying the overnight hospitality were Truman Arnold, a Texas banker, and Ron Burkle, a California grocery shop magnate, both of whom donated \$100,000 (£60,600) and raised

more than \$750,000. Others in the same bracket on a list compiled by *The Washington Post* were Steven Rattner and Stanley Shuman, both New York bankers, and Dan Duto, a lobbyist. Their visits variously included invitations to a state dinner, a round of golf with the President or a trip on Air Force One.

Hollywood has been well represented among the bed-and-breakfast guests. They include Barbara Streisand, Steven Spielberg, the producer David Geffen, Tom Hanks, Chevy Chase and Richard Dreyfuss, all perennial Clinton fundraisers. Mr Dreyfuss said that the President woke him at 7.20am for a chat about politics. The actor also confessed that before checking out, he telephoned his children, just to brag that he was calling from the Lincoln Bedroom.

That is where President Lincoln signed the proclamation ending slavery. The Queens' Bedroom was named by the Kennedys after the many royals who slept there, including the Queen. Not all guests fill party coffers. Occupants of the Lincoln Bedroom have also included the Clintons' former cook from Arkansas, a theology student and his wife, the President's pastor and other old friends.

Gingrich likely to receive only mild reprimand

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A WELL-TIMED leak from Capitol Hill yesterday indicated that Newt Gingrich has every chance of keeping his job as House Speaker.

Sources said two Democrats and two Republicans who investigated his breach of ethics will unanimously recommend only a reprimand. This is a mild punishment that would not bar him from running for re-election to the Speaker's chair, unlike the harsher penalty of censure.

Mr Gingrich's defence team was said to have negotiated the reprimand recommendation as part of a plea bargain before Christmas. In exchange, he admitted that he had violated the rules of the House of Representatives in connection with the funding of

his televised lecture course on politics.

The four investigators, members of a subcommittee, have yet to report to the full ethics committee, but there is virtually no chance that their reprimand recommendation will be overturned. Politically, this means that Mr Gingrich could only be defeated in next Tuesday's vote for Speaker by defections from his own party.

Although there have been waverers, they seem likely to fall into line if they are assured that the subcommittee, having heard all the evidence, regards a reprimand as sufficient punishment.

Earlier, the two Republicans on the subcommittee had thrown Mr Gingrich a lifeline by promising they would still vote for him as Speaker and vowing to block any attempt to censure him. Democrats who had been hoping to capitalise on the Gingrich saga were furious that details of the reprimand had leaked out.

With some justification, they declared angrily that it was unprecedented for ethics subcommittee decisions to be signalled. They said that they were unaware of any evaluations being made public before the full ethics committee had met. They complained about an infusion of politics in what should be a non-political peer review by the ethics committee.



Gingrich: good chance of remaining Speaker

Bombay takes aim at great expectorations

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

BOMBAY, which has confused everybody by changing its name to Mumbai, is further stepping out of line by banning one of the two most ubiquitous of male habits in India: spitting. The other is public urination; that may be attended to later.

Expectoration is begun young: boys barely old enough to walk can be heard practising guttural sounds, which are regarded as *macho*. Spitting knows no class barriers and is as commonplace among urban dwellers as in villages, where everybody does it.

It is wise to stay out of range of any man chewing *paan*, a pungent substance made from betel leaves, a twist of lime, perhaps a powdering of tobacco and a sprinkling of spices. This turns saliva blood red, giving the impression that the man has been punched in the mouth or been to the dentist.

Bombay, the name almost everybody continues to use — except international airlines, whose staff continually have to reassure passengers that they are not on the wrong aircraft — has decided it is time for the habit to be curbed. India's commercial capital is the country's most

sophisticated city, as well as its richest, and spitting is at odds with the international image it has of itself.

The move represents an important cultural shift and it will take intense police activity to enforce it. But Bombay council seems determined to do so, both for aesthetic reasons and because of the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis.

In Delhi, spitting among office workers is so common that often there are spittoons outside lifts and on the stairs. The capital is trying to reduce smoking in public places and keep threatening to introduce prohibition, leaving little time to ponder a spitting ban. It is also trying to deal with public urination by building more urinals.

The Indian spitting culture probably originates from the yogic belief in releasing anything nasty from the body as quickly as possible.

□ Bombay: Cinemas in India's film capital shut their doors, calling an indefinite strike that could cripple one of the world's largest movie industries. The strike at 1,300 cinemas was over the decision by the state government of Maharashtra to double the tax on cinema tickets. (AP)

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Hebron pact runs into new trouble on security clauses

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli-Palestinian talks about the future of Hebron ran into trouble yesterday, despite a new urgency to complete an accord after Wednesday's rifle attack in the West Bank town.

There are obstacles at the heart of the agreement, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Information Minister said. He added that the problems could be resolved with the help of Dennis Ross, the United States special envoy to the Middle East. Until then, no meeting was possible between Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President.

Completion of the accord was being delayed as the two sides wrangled over Palestinian demands on three issues:

□ A timetable for further Israeli redeployments across the West Bank.
□ A Palestinian presence at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, burial place of Abraham and Sarah, holy to Muslims and Jews.
□ A restriction on the height of Jewish as well as Palestinian buildings in Hebron for security reasons.

"Not everything has been resolved," said Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Defence

Minister, who said the agreement with Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian negotiator, "has a large majority of clauses, but there are still one or two that will have to be discussed by Netanyahu and Arafat."

Palestinian and Israeli leaders emphasised the need to complete a deal quickly after a right-wing Israeli soldier opened fire on a crowded open-air market in Hebron, wounding six Palestinians. Police officers investigating the shooting by Abimelech Friedman, 22, said that they had detained a second soldier.

New sepulchre dome unveiled

Jerusalem: The reconstructed 11th-century dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where Jesus is believed to have been buried, was unveiled yesterday. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, and the Palestinian Authority President, Yasser Arafat. The dome, which was destroyed in 1967, is a symbol of the city's religious heritage. It was built by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I in the 6th century. The new dome is made of stone and has a gold-plated exterior. It is located in the Old City of Jerusalem, near the Temple Mount. The unveiling ceremony was attended by thousands of people from both sides of the conflict. Arafat and Mordechai both praised the reconstruction of the dome as a step towards peace and reconciliation.



Noam Friedman, 22, in a police car outside the court in Petah Tiqwa, near Tel Aviv, to which he was taken yesterday for a preliminary hearing into the Hebron shooting

Fifteen killed as terrorist blast rocks Damascus

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

AT LEAST 15 people were killed and 50 injured when a bomb exploded without warning at a crowded bus station in the Syrian capital Damascus on Tuesday, residents and diplomats said yesterday.

Details were slow in emerging because the Syrian authorities initially ordered the state-run media not to report the rare terrorist attack, which diplomats suspected was the responsibility of the country's external enemies. Syria last night acknowledged the bombing, but said that nine people had been killed, and blamed it on Israeli agents.

President Assad, who has ruled Syria for 26 years, has faced virtually no internal challenge since crushing a Muslim fundamentalist revolt in the central city of Hama in 1982.

The large bomb apparently was placed in a bag in the luggage compartment of a bus at the al-Intilak centre, the main taxi and bus stop in the capital. It exploded as the bus left for the northern city of Aleppo, causing panic, roads were choked with motorists trying to flee.

"It was a huge explosion," said a Damascus resident whose block of flats nearly a mile away was shaken. "Damascus is in a state of shock." Some observers drew links to mysterious bomb attacks

last April and May. Turkey was blamed then, but denied involvement. Tuesday's attack was different in that it was designed to cause maximum casualties and most diplomats discounted any Turkish involvement.

The bombing follows a series of recent attacks on Syrian interests in Lebanon, where right-wing Christians vehemently oppose the control exercised by Damascus over the Lebanese Government. In one incident, a bus carrying Syrian workers was attacked and the driver died. Lebanese officials claim the Christian hardliners are supported by Israel which they say wants to destabilise their country to retaliate against Syria.

With Syrian-Israeli peace talks deadlocked, the two countries have been trading bellicose rhetoric in recent months.

Israel blames Syria, which has 30,000 troops in Lebanon, for giving free rein to pro-Iranian Hezbollah guerrillas to attack Israeli forces occupying a self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon. Hamas and other radical Palestinian groups also have offices in Damascus, although Western diplomats say Syria keeps them on a tight leash for fear of upsetting the United States.

Envoys link Libya executions to failed coup

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

SIX senior officers and two civilians were executed for spying in Tripoli yesterday after Libya's top military court on Wednesday rejected their appeals. According to state-run television, the officers were shot and the civilians hanged. In confirming the death penalty, the court alleged that the eight had used equipment supplied by the CIA.

The television report amounted to a rare public admission of opposition within the military to the 27-year rule of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, whose regime is also threatened by militant Islamic fundamentalists.

Western diplomats in Tripoli suspect the sentences were not related to espionage but to a serious coup attempt in October 1993 that has never been publicly

acknowledged by Colonel Gaddafi. The attempt was led by officers from the powerful Warfalla tribe, which had considerable influence in the regime and the officer corps in Beni Walid, a garrison town that Colonel Gaddafi visited last summer for an apparently unsuccessful reconciliation with Warfalla leaders.

Other Libya experts speculate that the alleged spies may have been involved in two recent assassination attempts against the Libyan leader, the last in December, when a grenade hidden inside a pomegranate was lobbed at Colonel Gaddafi. He escaped unhurt.

"We're always hearing reports of secret executions, but what is interesting here is that the Libyans have gone public about it, clearly as a deterrent to frighten people generally, and the military in particular, to show that Gaddafi is still firmly in charge," a European envoy said. "The fact

that Gaddafi felt the need to go public implies he's not as firmly in charge as he's trying to make out," the envoy added.

Television showed the alleged spies sitting in a large cage inside a courtroom with their heads shaved. After their sentences were confirmed, an unidentified official read a statement to the men. "You mobilised yourselves as spies against your country and allowed the enemies to get hold of military, economic and security capabilities by using sophisticated equipment supplied by the CIA," he said.

In an apparent reference to the American air raids on Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986, the official added: "Have you forgotten, or are you just playing down what those who recruited you as spies have done to us? They have killed our children, torn our bodies apart, raided our families as they were sleeping."



Gaddafi: the target of assassination attempts

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Sexists exposed in Dubai

FROM ROUTER IN DUBAI

MALE fear of being publicly shamed in a conservative, close-knit society has reduced harassment of women in Dubai, the Gulf's most cosmopolitan city.

Under a crackdown, police are publishing pictures of so-called "Eve-teasers" in newspapers. Some of the offenders are expatriates, mainly from Asian countries.

The risk of public disgrace in a Muslim society, where many families know each other, is acting as a deterrent. This is scaring many affluent young men with nothing much to do who are being blamed for harassment, rare in the socially segregated societies of the Gulf.

From Gulf Arab women enveloped head to foot in traditional black robes to Europeans in revealing miniskirts, women are subjected to whistles, winks and whispers.

"Cases of female harassment have dropped to 10 so far this year from 40 in 1995 and 94 in 1993 since [Crown Prince] Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid al-Maktoum decided to display pictures of these reckless youth in newspapers," a police official said. "Now Eve-teasers are thinking twice before they commit their indecent acts," he added.

Actual proof, based on a witness report, is needed before police can enforce the offenders' cars are also impounded for up to a month and they are detained for 48 hours.

Dubai has a reputation for being the most tolerant of the seven sheikhdoms that make up the United Arab Emirates. Alcohol is served in hotels and foreign women wear bikinis on beaches.

According to UAE laws, a man can be fined up to \$3,000 (£1,870) and jailed for up to a year if convicted of physical or verbal acts in public "deemed offensive to female decency".

Young, mostly clean-shaven men gather near entrances to schools and shopping malls to try to meet women in a country where traditions ban men from mixing with women before marriage.

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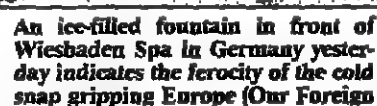
FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN BELGRADE

However, despite widespread international coverage

Bratislava: President Kovac of Slovakia has refused to sign an anti-subversion law that borrows heavily from legislation of the communist era and which has been criticised as anti-democratic by the European Union and America, his spokesman said yesterday. The law sets out punishments for anti-government demonstrations and other "crimes". (Reuters)

Outside urban centres the rural majority, who have no access to any media other than that controlled by the state, remain loyal to Mr Milosevic. Although the ambivalence of the underpaid Serb Army may concern him, he has so far retained the loyalty of Serbia's 80,000 police force. Their strength in numbers and equipment would prove more than adequate to crush the protest if they were unleashed on the demonstrators.

Misha Glenny, page 18



elderly. Firefighters in Sulzbach in the German state of Saarland were hampered by ice-clogged hoses as they fought a house blaze that killed seven people early yesterday. Temperatures of -16C (3F) froze the hoses and clogged firefighters' face masks with ice, police said. Two children were among the dead. A man holding his nine-month-old baby jumped in panic from the fourth

floor as the fire raced through the house; both are expected to survive. Eastern Europe was plunged into the deepest and deadliest freeze. In Poland, about 30 people have frozen to death — mostly homeless or elderly poor people who could not afford proper heating. Temperatures there rose slightly yesterday to 20C (-4F) after reaching -37C (-34F) last week. In Hungary, four home-

less people froze to death over the new year holiday, state radio said. Freight traffic was halted in much of eastern France after key canals were sealed with four inches of ice. High-speed trains between Paris and Marseilles were delayed up to an hour by ice on the tracks.

In California, melting snow and pelting rain swelled rivers through the wine country in the north of the state, turning vineyards into muddy brown lakes, as storms continued to batter the American Northwest.

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN
IN KARACHI



PAKISTAN police have arrested Hakim Ali Zardari, father-in-law of Benazir Bhutto, the deposed Prime Minister, on fraud and tax-evasion charges as the interim Government intensifies its crack-down on corrupt politicians.

Mr Zardari's son, Asif Ali Zardari, who was Investment Minister in his wife's Cabinet, has been under arrest since Miss Bhutto's dismissal from office. A court in Karachi yesterday extended his custody until Saturday at the re-

quest of an investigating police officer who has been questioning him about the alleged murder of Miss Bhutto's estranged brother, Murtaza, in September.

Hakim Zadari, 70, a former MP and chairman of the national assembly's standing committee on finance, was detained by the Federal Investigation Agency after midnight at his home in Karachi's fashionable seaside Clifton district. Senior officials alleged that Mr Zadari has been involved in a multi-million-pound land scandal, defrauding banks and tax

Mr Zardari, who is a member of Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, is a candidate for a national assembly seat in his home town, Nawabshah, in the southern province of Sindh. If found guilty, he may face disqualification under the new election rules that bar candidates who have defaulted on bank loans and have been involved in corruption.

A landlord and a businessman, Mr Zardari allegedly acquired huge loans from state-controlled banks and then had them written off by his daughter-in-law's Government. Using his political influence, he is said to have acquired land on which to build a hotel in Rawalpindi, but sold it illegally later at a large premium. He is said not to have repaid loans acquired from the National Development Financial Corporation.

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

AT LEAST 30 small creatures, less than a foot tall, extremely kitsch in appearance, sporting a cheerful expression, a white beard and in some cases a pointed red cap, have appeared recently in woods around Ajenon, a sleepy town in Normandy famous for its lace-making.

Now a French newspaper has revealed that these strange apparitions can be attributed to the FLN, the French initials of the Garden

Gnome Liberation Front, which is working "to give garden gnomes back their liberty, to free them from a miserable life of solitude and to return them to their natural habitat in the forest".

To date, Alepçon's crack commando team has enjoyed a 100 per cent success rate. Gnomes are repainted at a secret location, relieved of caps and other humiliating accessories, and released into the wild, *France-Soir* reported.

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Portillo promises Britain will fight global aggressors

By MICHAEL BINTON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN is ready to commit its armed forces to supporting peace and fighting aggression anywhere in the world, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, said in Port Stanley yesterday.

The Government was committed to defending the Falkland Islands and maintaining their security indefinitely, he added. "There is no caveat, exception or time limit to that commitment."

He said in a speech that Britain still had a global role. It took its responsibilities seriously and was ready to "match words with action" because it is a civilised nation. Royal Navy ships carried the message of Britain to the world's ports as well as "the unspoken message that Britain is committed about security wherever it might be threatened."

Mr Portillo's pledge was an elaboration of the justification he gave the Commons in the autumn of Britain's readiness to send an intervention force to Zaire. It also had echoes of John Kennedy's inauguration promise that America would "pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty."

Mr Portillo said Britain was ready to commit its armed forces to support the necessary, "We commit to peacekeeping operations, even in places far from home, for simple and yet fundamental reasons. We are a civilised nation. We recognise our humanitarian obligations. We have the military experience and capability to help. We respond out of our

deep concern for our fellow man and with a sense of pride that Britain's armed forces can make a difference."

He said Britain's readiness to commit 50,000 men and women to the 1992 Falklands conflict showed that the country was capable of acting alone if necessary. "Nevertheless, however, it acted more often through international organisations. "Despite the spread of democracy over the last decade, parts of the world remain prone to xenophobia, ethnic conflict and religious intolerance," he said.

British defence planning took account of more than 50 potential crisis points across the world, including the Balkans, the trans-Caucasus, Algeria, Libya and Iraq. Outside

Manpower cuts curb ambitions

WHILE Mr Portillo has every reason to feel confident that Britain's forces can play a significant role in peacekeeping missions or regional conflicts, manpower cuts since the end of the Cold War will limit its global policing ambitions (Michael Evans writes).

The Army is down to 104,000, from 120,000 in 1990, and the Royal Air Force to 100,000, from 120,000 in 1990. Support services have also been pruned. However, Britain will rarely, if ever, have to act on its own, so Mr Portillo can afford to be generous in offering its military expertise.

Nato, there were about 35 countries equipped with up-to-date tanks and artillery. Many had armies numbered in hundreds of thousands. Forty air forces outside Nato had modern offensive aircraft, 30 had submarine forces and 20 had ballistic missiles.

"Such threats require us to maintain highly capable forces," he said. "We in Britain have shown ourselves willing to invest in effective deterrence and in forces that can be rapidly deployed."

Mr Portillo insisted that the 2,400 Falklanders should be able to choose their own future without fear or oppression. He also emphasised, however, Britain's links with Latin America and said Britain warmly welcomed the spread of democracy and economic liberalism in the continent.

"Our interest in the South Atlantic is tangible and permanent and we shall wish to broaden and deepen our ties with the countries of the region, based on the clarity of our position regarding the sovereignty of the islands," he said.

His remarks, clearly aimed at Argentina, followed an earlier statement in which he rejected calls by President Menem for shared sovereignty over the islands. However, he welcomed what he called the copacetic tone of Señor Menem's remarks.

Military planners are asking whether Britain needs to keep such a large force in the South Atlantic at a time when Argentina has promised that it would not use force again in its campaign to secure sovereignty over the islands.

Cycle king Induráin quits the road at 32

FROM TUNKE VARADARAJAN IN SAN SEBASTIÁN

THE champion cyclist Miguel Induráin, arguably the greatest living idol in Spain, plunged his nation into sadness yesterday by announcing his retirement from competitive racing.

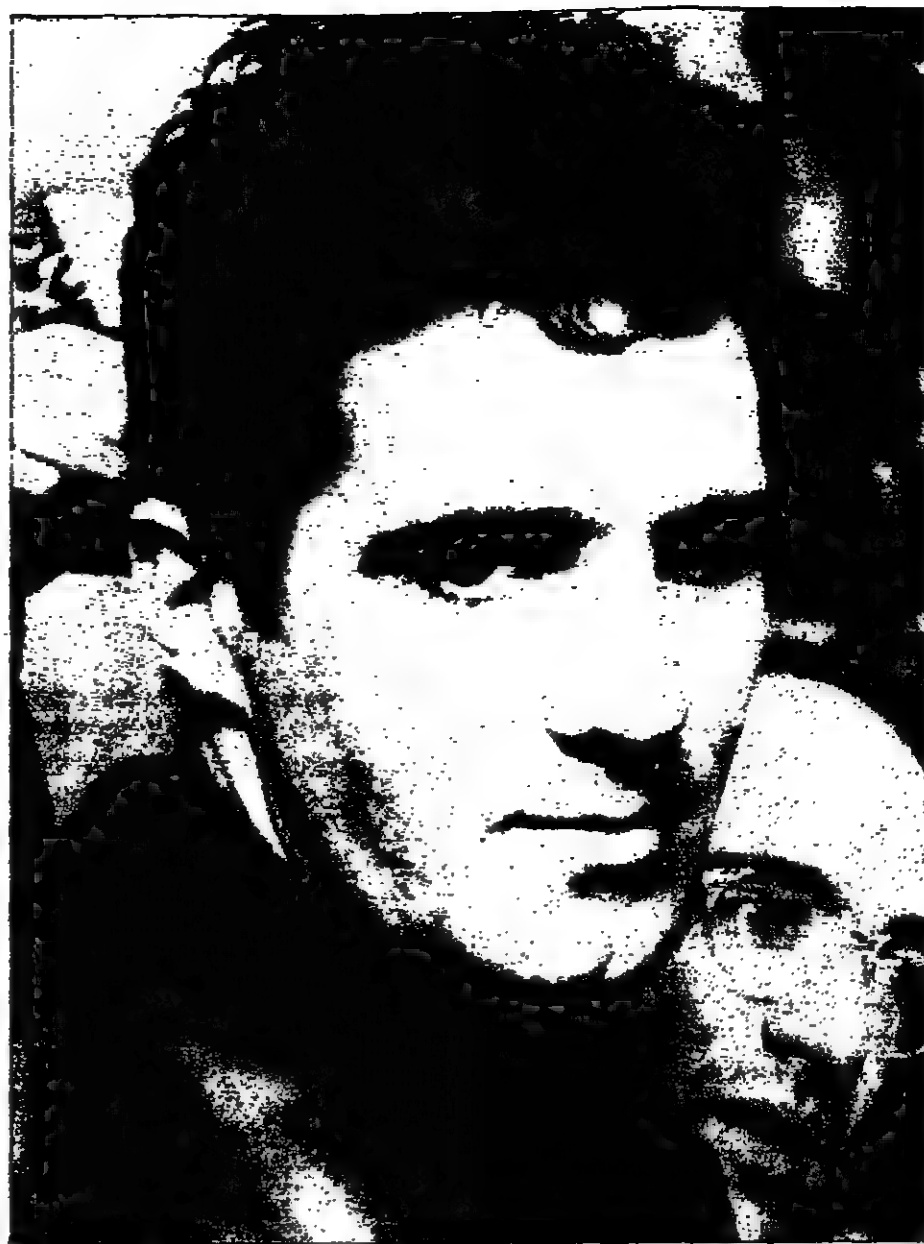
"Miguelón", or Big Miguel, announced his departure at a press conference in his native Pamplona, so ending months of fevered speculation in Spanish newspapers, bars and homes over the future of the Basque superstar.

Induráin, 32, who won the Tour de France five times consecutively from 1991, had been out of sorts since he lost last year's race. A victory then, which virtually nobody had dared to bet against, would have given him an unprecedented sixth title. Later in the year he shocked all Spain by dropping out midway in the Vuelta de España, or the "tour of Spain".

If the national mood after his Tour de France loss was one of disbelief, the feeling thereafter was one of gloom. When Induráin's contract with the Banesto Spanish cycling team, worth an annual £7 million, expired on December 31 without his having indicated that he would move to another sponsor, retirement seemed the only likely option.

A recent poll indicated his compatriots believed that Induráin is the most accomplished Spanish sportsman of all time. Yet he is far more than just a sporting hero, his acclaim transcending all boundaries of profession, region, class and age. Opinion polls indicate he is even more popular than King Juan Carlos.

After each of his Tour de



Induráin arrives at a Pamplona press conference to announce his retirement

France triumphs, newspaper editorials exhorted Spaniards to "be like Induráin". Political commentators have been known to call for the "Induráinisation" of Spain, by which they mean an end to inefficiency, and a greater degree of decency, integrity and professionalism in the workforce.

Politically, as well, in the strife-torn Basque country,

Induráin has been a model, always emphasising that he is "both Basque and Spanish". It is refreshing also that a Basque should be so warmly embraced across the length and breadth of the country. He is a quiet family man — a kind of Spanish "bloke next door" — and his shy, unshowy manner is much appreciated.

Induráin's career as a cyclist began fortuitously, when

he was 11 years old. His father, a farmer, recalls this story: "My son became a cyclist because another boy stole his bicycle. We chased the thief but couldn't catch him and Miguel was heartbroken. 'Don't worry,' I said to him. 'I'll get you a new one, a racing bike.' Young Miguel got it, and never looked back."

Sport, page 42

Italy told to tighten migrant entry law

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN authorities demanded reform of the nation's liberal immigration laws yesterday after more North Africans bluffed their way onto the southern island of Lampedusa.

Officers from the Finance Guard patrolling the sea between Italy and Tunisia on New Year's Eve stopped a trawler carrying 28 would-be immigrants as it was making its way to the shores of Lampedusa ten miles away.

Under an accord between Tunis and Rome six weeks ago, the police normally would have asked Tunisian authorities to escort the vessel back to Sfax, the port it left after each passenger paid the equivalent of a million lire (£400) for the voyage.

But the group claimed they had been at sea without food and water for ten days and pleaded to be allowed to land at Lampedusa. They also claimed that three other shipmates had died from hunger and exposure to freezing temperatures between December 27 and December 30.

The Mayor of Lampedusa, Salvatore Martello, said the account was almost certainly fabricated to allow them to land. Under Italian law they will be transported to Sicily where they will be ordered to face repatriation within ten days. However, they will be free to move in the meantime and are sure to head for France and Germany, he said.

"The uninterrupted chain of clandestine immigration has reacted to the measures adopted by the Italian Government," Signor Martello said. Forty Tunisians intercepted by a police vessel were allowed ashore on Wednesday.

Easy election win for Singapore rulers

FROM REUTERS IN SINGAPORE

OPPOSITION parties in Singapore retained at least two seats in the 83-member parliament but the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) obliterated one of its main opponents as results came in from yesterday's general election.

Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, and his PAP were assured of retaining power because opponents contested only 36 of the 83 seats. Of the first 31 seats announced last night, the PAP took 29.

It was not clear whether the opposition would match or improve on the four seats won in the last election. The Singapore Democratic Party (SDP), which held three seats, has been shut out of the next

parliament. Two SDP incumbents lost and a third switched to another opposition party.

Chen Soon Juan, leader of the SDP, failed to capture a key seat, after a campaign in which he accused the PAP of "betraying the people's trust".

But Chiam See Tong, the former SDP chief, scraped home with a reduced majority under the banner of his new Singapore People's Party.

The Workers' Party kept the one seat it had in the old parliament. But attention was focused last night on the Cheng San constituency, where five Workers' Party candidates faced the PAP. Mr Goh has staked his prestige on winning the constituency.

Zaire gold town falls to rebels

Rebels trying to topple President Mobutu of Zaire seized the hard-rock town of Bunia and nearby gold mines in a 12-hour battle with government forces (Our Foreign Staff writes). Hundreds died in the Christmas Eve offensive.

In neighbouring Rwanda authorities arrested as genocide suspects more than 2,500 Hutus who were among about 460,000 refugees who returned home from Tanzania.

Out of prison

Brussels: A Belgian court freed Alain Van der Brest, an ex-minister held in connection with the 1991 murder of fellow Socialist politician, André Cools. But the charges have not been dropped. (Reuters)

Waves injure 27

Redondo Beach: Storm-whipped waves 10ft high swept 27 people off a jetty at this California beach, leaving many with neck and back injuries. All were rescued by lifeguards. (AP)

Java gas threat

Jakarta: A crater has opened up and is spewing poisonous gas in the Dieng Plateau of central Java, where a similar discharge killed nearly 150 people in 1979, the official Antara news agency said. (AP)

Border alert

Bonn: Germany is to crack down on smugglers of illegal immigrants by boosting the number of border police near Poland and the Czech Republic from 4,700 to 6,200, the Interior Ministry said. (AFP)

Corruption war

Hanoi: Communist Vietnam's leaders intensified their war of words on corruption, saying moral degeneration among party cadres had exposed a flank for enemies to sabotage the revolution. (Reuters)

Imperial hope

Tokyo: Almost 60,000 people visited the Imperial Palace to wish a happy new year to Emperor Akihito, 63. He said: "I pray for happiness for Japanese people as well as those in the rest of the world." (AP)

Festive chop

Brussels: A thief stole a sheep from a Christmas crib in the western Belgian city of Ghent and slaughtered it on the spot, the police said. "Looks like someone who wanted a meal," an officer said. (Reuters)

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Food for thought

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Why therapy does not work

Clinical psychologist Dr Dorothy Rowe explains why, for many patients, psychotherapy cannot provide a solution

In my salad days when I was green in judgment I believed that universal enlightenment was possible. I saw that the body of human stupidity far outweighed the body of human knowledge and wisdom with the result that just about all the vastness of human suffering derived from what we do to one another and to ourselves. However, I believed that the forces of unreason (the kind of thinking that results when fear, greed, vanity and the desire for power are allowed to prevail over logic and scientific thinking) could be exposed for what they were and thus defeated. I thought that psychotherapy would be the means by which this would happen. Through psychotherapy we would come to understand that all we know is what we have constructed, and that out of this understanding we would develop new ways of living together based on tolerance, mutual dignity and knowledge informed by the search for truth rather than the fulfilment of desires.

Now I know that this has not occurred and might never occur. I no longer see psychotherapy as being as profound as I once thought it was. Moreover, the forces of unreason are not so easily routed, and, when they do suffer a defeat the forces quickly regroup and capture other territory. This happens because not only do these forces serve to keep power in the hands of those who would be powerful (in political thought such people are usually grouped together as the Church and the State) but they often secretly subvert those who believe that they are in the vanguard of enlightenment. Enlightenment requires a person to look with clear, unwavering eyes at the reality of our existence but, as T.S. Eliot said: "Human kind cannot bear very much reality."

When reality becomes too much we can comfort ourselves with fantasies, which is wise provided we remember that the stories are fantasies. If we fail to do this, if we think that our fantasies are real and true, we join the forces of unreason. In the ranks of therapists there are some who do just this. They develop a logic that conveniently ignores those constructions which do not fit their theories and thus they collude with the forces of unreason. Therapists whose model of therapy includes terms like transpersonal, spirituality, the soul, the religious, are prone to do this. Freud ignored much of the actual brutality his clients had suffered and many of his disciples have done the same. Such collusion seems to go beyond a

mere failure of nerve. It seems instead to be an inability to understand and accept the peculiarity of our existence.

This peculiarity is that, while the world we live in seems to be solid and real and shared with others, what we each experience is our individual construction. We can imagine events that occur without any relationship to us, but what we have is not knowledge about such events but theories. In fact, everything we know is a theory, a construction, and this construction is inside our heads.

When I lecture about this I often quote or refer to the work of the scientist Ian Stewart when he wrote: "The problem is that human beings cannot obtain an objective view of the universe. Everything we experience is mediated by our brains. Even our vivid impression that the world is 'out there' is a wonderful trick. The nerve cells in our brains create a simplified copy of reality inside our head, and then persuade us that we are inside it, rather than the other way around."

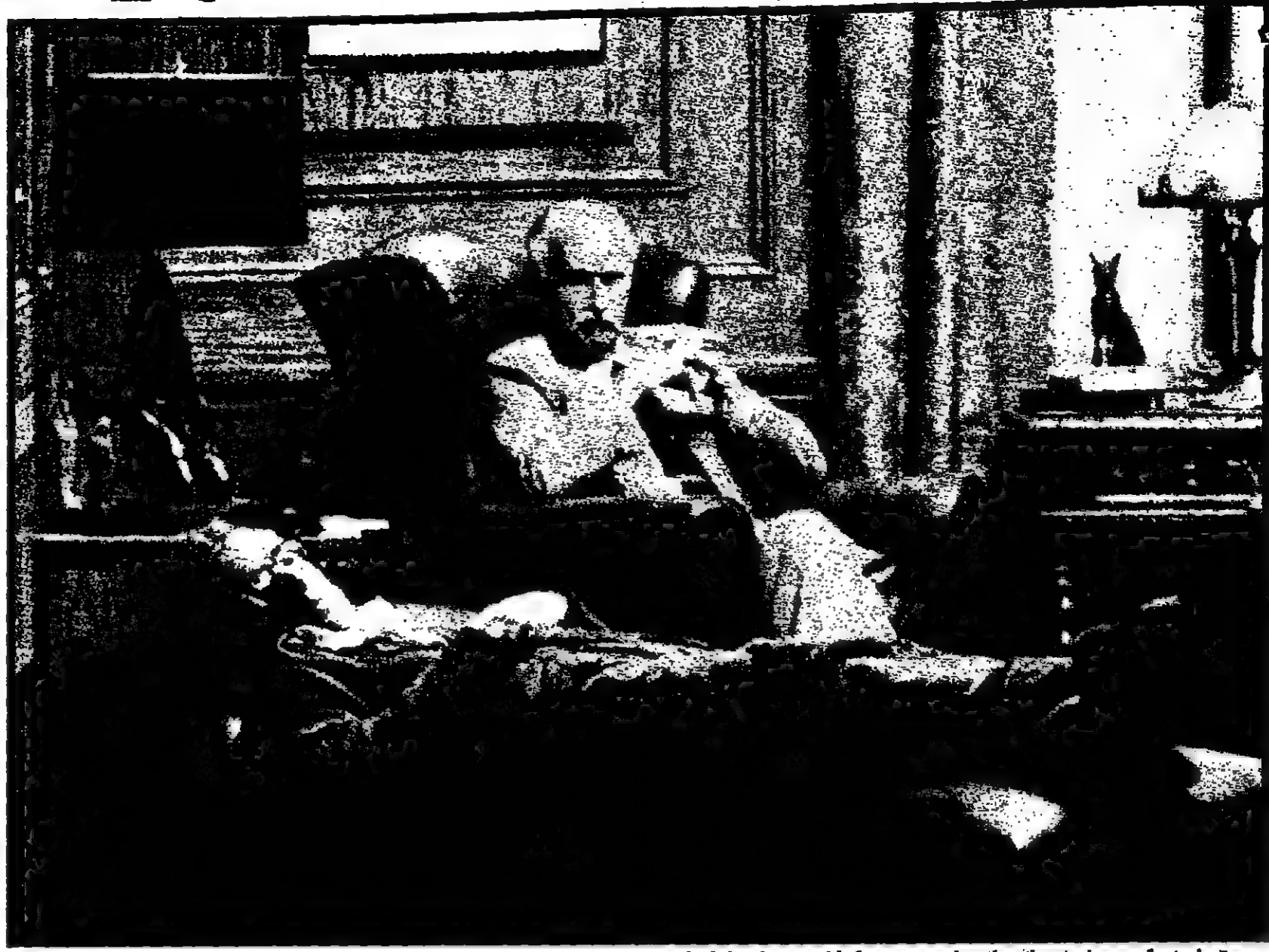
I then describe how, while it seems to me that I am here and my audience over there, actually what I am experiencing is inside my head. I can only hope that whatever is going on bears some

resemblance to my construction. I go on to say that the same process is occurring in each person, and that if it were possible to take our pictures out of our heads, we would see that each picture is different. This is because our construction can come from nowhere other than our past experience, and no two people have the same experience.

As I describe this process I watch the expressions of my audience. Some people look mildly interested, others look surprised because I am not telling them anything they do not know, but others look confused, even anxious. They have never heard such an account of experience before.

Because all that we have are our interpretations, we are free to choose to acknowledge that what we have are theories and that we can use all means to test these theories, or we can insist that our theories are accurate representations of the truth. Of course, acknowledging that all you know is a theory which might or might not approximate to reality requires the courage to live with uncertainty, and many people (some therapists included) lack such courage.

What is this inability to accept and acknowledge the peculiarity of our existence?



"When reality becomes too much we can comfort ourselves with fantasies, which is wise provided we remember that the stories are fantasies"

Over the past 20 years I have taught — or tried to teach — this to a wide range of people. I have found that some people have no difficulty in understanding the peculiarity of their existence while others remain baffled and confused or dismiss out of hand what I say. Most of the nuclear physicists I have encountered find what I say blindingly obvious. After all, physicists have been dealing with this issue since the 1920s. It is other scientists who want to believe that somehow in doing science they step outside themselves, don the white coat of objectivity and perceive reality directly. They find the thought that they cannot measure anything absolutely accurately unacceptable. Many are psychologists.

Teaching psychologists and highly qualified psychotherapists I find the hardest chore of all. Many come with a set

of mental boxes, which they call psychological theories. As I talk I see what I am saying being popped into one of the boxes and the lid snapped tight. To pass examinations in psychology and psychotherapy you have to know the current theories and their accepted refutation — or supposed refutation, because often the refutation is no more than name-calling, and there is nothing well trained psychologists like better than polysyllabic abstract nouns. Such words allow the user to ignore experience, especially experiences that challenge the psychologist's favourite theory.

Of course, psychologists and psychotherapists are not the only people who pop everything into a theory box. Listen to the pundits on Radio Four's *The Moral Maze* and you will hear them doing the same. Thus lived experience is ignored and what is enjoyed is the comfort of prejudice. As Freud once observed, intellectualisation is the most reliable of the defences.

As small children we are well aware that our way of seeing things is very different from that of our parents, but unfortunately for most of us we are not allowed to hold on to such an understanding. Instead, we are told that our individual truths are silly, childish, wrong, wicked. If we grow up believing that there is just one right way of thinking, feeling and acting we lead miserable lives because we have lost the one freedom that makes our life survivable, even happy and glorious. Such freedom comes from understanding that although we can control very little of the circumstances of our life we are always free to change how we interpret those circumstances.

The turning point in psychotherapy is

the moment when the person actually reaches such an understanding. This is an understanding that the person now knows through and through. It saturates and transforms their entire structure of meaning. If the person has only an intellectual grasp of this understanding then nothing is gained. Unfortunately there are many psychotherapists who pay lip-service to such an understanding but who imply that they are in possession of some Absolute Truth.

Thus are those psychotherapists who want to be powerful, seduced by the forces of unreason. It may be that the psychotherapist wants to secure a good income, or become famous, or simply assure himself of his self-worth by making his clients better. But as long as the psychotherapist is saying to the client "I know best. Do it my way," the psychotherapist has yielded to the forces of unreason.

Hence psychotherapy has not transformed the world. Far too many psychotherapists have been seduced in this way. Such schools of therapy. Psychoanalysts were seduced right from the start.

Unreason seeks to satisfy desires and to do so must frustrate the search for what is. Science seeks to establish what is, irrespective of our desires. Psychotherapy has not transformed and enlightened the world or even a small part of it because in seeking to understand ourselves we fail to be scientific. Meaning is our being. We have nothing else other than the meaning we create.

Such an understanding should be the basis of psychology and psychotherapy. But it is not. In the 1960s an American

psychologist called Rosenthal published his research which showed that if teachers thought certain children were intelligent, that test results differed according to gender, and that psychologists got the results they expected even when the subjects were rats. In short, he showed that it is not what happens to us which determines what we think, feel and do but how we interpret what happens to us. I remember a lecturer saying: "If his results are only halfway accurate we'll have to do every experiment again." I thought she was right and that psychologists should start again. But they did not. Status, as ever, was more important than truth.

I would be possible to construct a psychology and psychotherapy based on the knowledge that we construct what we know. Here we would recognise that emotion is not separate from cognition but is a way of creating meaning. We would understand that communication is not a matter of passing something from one person to another but a process of including interpretations, full of opportunities for mutual misunderstandings. We would elaborate the methods of science in the testing of our personal, political, artistic and scientific theories. We would search for shared patterns of constructions and delineate the variations of individual constructions. In all, we would celebrate the creativity of our inventions, for we would know that if there were one real reality and that was what each of us saw how dreary our lives would be. If only we would do this.

Must the meagre varieties of unreason and the desire for power always prevail? © Dorothy Rowe 1996. *Taken from Living Together*, eds David Kennard & Neil Small, Quartet Books, £9.

We have nothing else other than the meaning we create

Jane Gordon finds herself succumbing to a surplus of superstition

THERE is something about the new year that makes me uncharacteristically superstitious. In the past few days I have found myself surreptitiously checking through the "year ahead" predictions of every astrologer you can name searching for the future of my dreams.

Because, while part of me knows that — as Shakespeare so succinctly put it — "our fate lies not in our stars but in ourselves", another part of me yearns to believe in some preordained destiny. Indeed, it occurred to me recently that as we move towards the millennium — becoming ever more sophisticated and technologically advanced — so, simultaneously, we have become more and more obsessed with looking back over our shoulders to a time when the only science we knew was based on magic, myth and superstition.

Instead of putting our faith in the considerable achievements of the present day we prefer to depend on the dubious counsel of contemporary soothsayers, sages and stargazers who pull us back to an age of ignorance.

In fact this year, as well as checking my Chinese horoscope, my numerology and the apparently all-important progress of the Comet Hale Bopp through my star sign, I have been looking at my Feng Shui — the latest "ancient science" to obsess neurotic, over-indulged Westerners.

I have been wondering, for instance, whether or not my desk faces in the "right" direction, whether my garden

Which runes shall I read?



Consulting the oracle

path is twisted enough to obstruct the bad energies bent on coming in through my green (for "growth") front door and whether or not I have a well lit, well positioned "wealth corner". I have even been considering repositioning the furniture in our bedroom after discovering, in Lillian Too's *The Complete Illustrated Guide to Feng Shui* given to me for Christmas, that a bed placed beneath an exposed beam will bounce hostile energy onto the couple lying in it.

I AM not alone in looking in strange places for omens about my future. A growing number of intelligent, otherwise sensible women — and rather fewer men — have reorganised their homes and lives to promote good Feng

Shui. One perceptive friend, who runs her own clothing business, was recently persuaded by a professional Feng Shui practitioner to repaint the exterior of her shops in red and gold, the colours of prosperity, and to leave a crystal bowl of water by the tills to magnify her takings. Another has removed all the mirrors from her house to relieve the "negative influences" they reflect.

It is, of course, pure mumbo-jumbo: the kind of nonsense that for centuries has held back mankind and prevented individuals from achieving their full potential. How can a rational person possibly believe that the position of a mirror, a bed or a table in their home could manipulate their "cosmic chi" so that they can achieve greater success and happiness? But then how could the Duchess of York have been taken in by Madame Vasso's ability to foresee her future from beneath a blue triangle?

Why do I still want to put my faith in the curious notion that the journey of a comet through space can make me healthier, wealthier and more fulfilled throughout 1997?

Perhaps it is because in an age when scientific achievements make magic look ordinary, when my PC can do

things I cannot understand without even an *encyclopedia*, it is comforting to fall back on the sorceries of the past. We might, I suppose, acknowledge that ultimately we are in control of our own destinies but we prefer, instead, to look to the stars, the tarot, even the palms of our hands for answers to problems we cannot, or do not want to, solve for ourselves. But it is self-delusory to dub the growing move towards these ancient arts as a new age of spiritual enlightenment. In truth, by putting our faith in old wives' tales and superstitions we are in danger not of awakening a new consciousness but of slipping back to the Dark Ages.

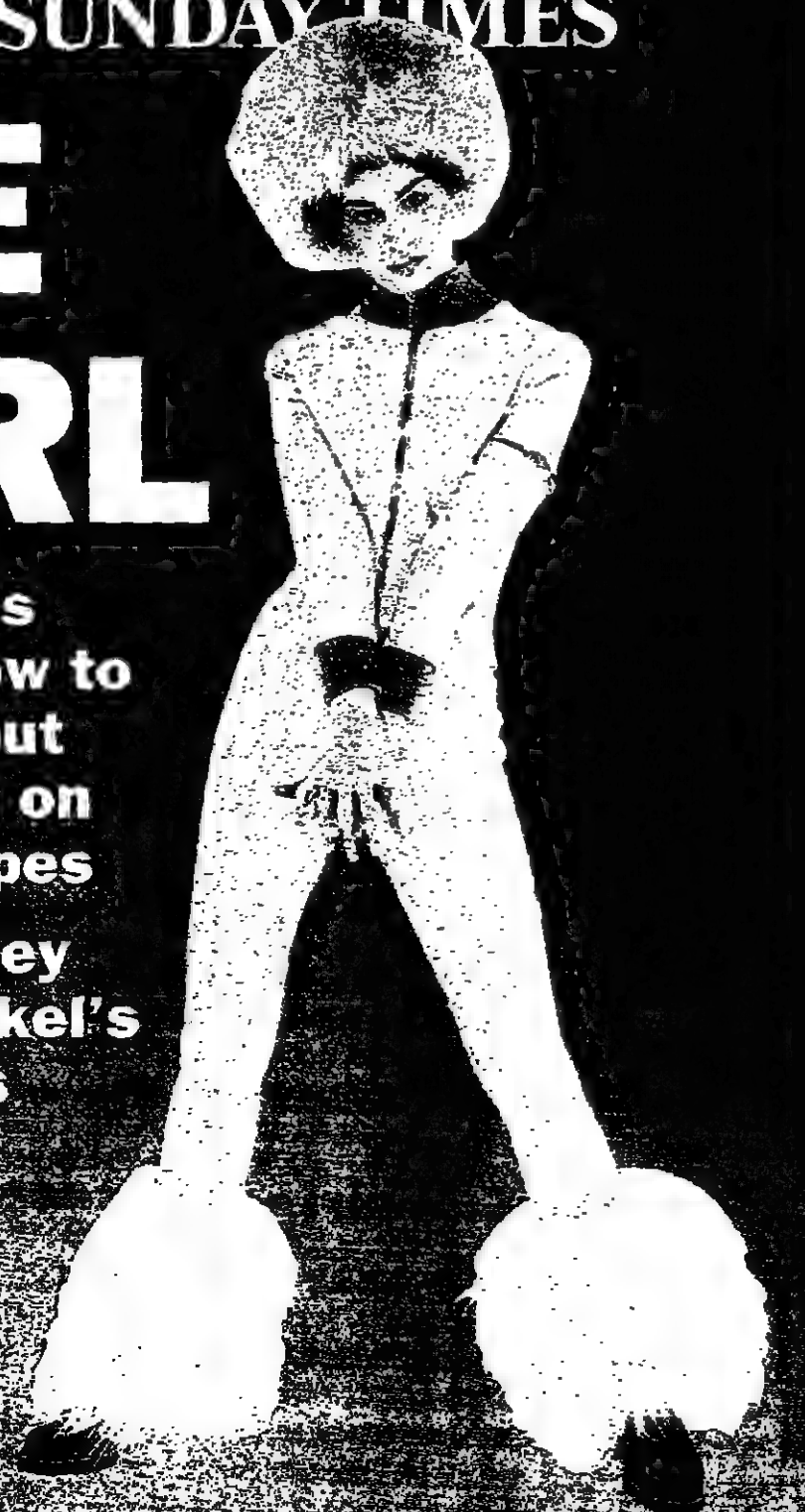
WHICH doesn't mean that I will stop looking for alternative routes to a good karma. Well, it was high time we reorganised the bedroom and, yes, there have been fewer harsh words since we moved the bed from under that beam. But perhaps that is down to the beneficial influence of Hale Bopp coursing its way through my house.

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‘People hurt you so easily — press, family, friends’

Robert Lindsay's face wears the half-muzzled, half-humiliated expression of a man who has craved your approval and yet fears it. He has no reason to look so vulnerable. As the star of *GBH* and *Jake's Progress* he took television acting to new heights. Many judges—including those responsible for giving out Baftas, Oliviers and Tonys in the past few years—reckon him to be the finest small screen and big stage actor of his generation. And yet he admits that he can be summed up by even the most unscrupulous critic as the very insecure profession. People hurt you so easily—press, family, friends, punters. Everything you do, you're going: "Is that OK?"

We are sitting in dressing room Number One at the London Palladium, where Lindsay is in the early stages of his 26-week run as Fagin in *Oliver!* "The best thing I've ever done," he says. He is 46, big-bearded, slightly little-twitish. He is hardly relaxed, but his emotions are so near the surface that he is more open to questioning than other, more superficially engaged interviewees. He is clearly hard on himself. If he can't think of the word he wants to use, he will shake his head and sport an alarming self-disgust.

He tells a story about when he was doing a sitcom called *Nightmare on Elm Street* called "Nightmare on Elm Street: The Baker's Crap." "My audience — if you like, people who'd watched *Citizen Smith* — they went, 'Eh? What's he doing that for?' I went into my local baker's to get a birthday cake for my daughter. The baker took it upon himself to tell me what he thought of my work, which was basically "What are you doing that? Crap for? I said: 'You have four channels to choose from. I have one, baker and your bread's crap.' He was completely dumbstruck that he'd offended me. He just thought, 'What the hell is this guy doing?' and that I was devastated. I was really hurt. My old man even said to me, 'You should have said to say: 'It's job! I'd say: 'Dad, he's a joiner, or was, or no, one comes up to you when you've done a door and says: 'That's a crap door, that's the worst door I've ever seen.'"



Robert Crampton
meets Robert Lindsay,
the star of a
controversial new TV
play dealing
with euthanasia

Lindsay talks a lot about his father. "I'm very proud of my dad. He was a trade unionist, very outspoken. I think I've inherited that." Lindsay Jr does have a reputation as being politically not entirely dissimilar from Wolfe Smith, the Seventies sitcom character that made him his name. "I do get on the soapbox occasionally about certain issues. I used to be very, very left wing. As I get older I'm calming down. I do go home a lot, and I'm very aware of the divide. North and South."

He is from Ilkerton, Derbyshire. His parents still live there, and he travels up from his new home in Stockinghamshire—in which he moved after the traumatic, and very public, breakdown of his long-standing relationship with the actress Diana Weston two years ago.

"There's a terrible in-

family, which is my education. My family are really working-class and in the bulk of the world ignorant. Actually, I am fortunate because I went to the college of further education. My parents encouraged me. So I had his headmaster, restoring his pride after he humiliated the 11-plus. He always wanted to be an architect. A lot of it was a series of small-town blues. I think at the time I would have done anything to stop it. I could have got away. Now I imagine through that middle-aged thing where I want to recapture my roots. I'm very proud of my roots, but for a long time I disowned them.

He lost his Derwentshire accent

deliberately, at RADA — “everyone was saying ‘pardon’ all the time, just embarrassing” — where he had a chip on his shoulder but grew to enjoy the social mix. I am sure he still feels a bit of an outsider, and that it is no accident he has done his best work for and with fellow Northerners Alan Bleasdale, the Liverpoolian writer, and Julie Walters. He talks about Bleasdale as “the brother,” and evidently adores him.

His dad crops again when we discuss his latest project — a drama-documentary for Granada called *Goodbye My Love*, which is about euthanasia. Lindsay's performance is compelling, but *Goodbye My Love* is not written with the skill of a Bleasdale. "My dad watched it," Lindsay says. "My dad is very pro-euthanasia. He was slightly angry that Granada were victimising

Robert Lindsay's dad is right. The character his son plays is Derek Humphry, a former journalist who helped his terminally ill first wife, Jean, to commit suicide, then moved to America with his second wife and assisted in her parents' suicides. In America, Humphry founded, and is still associated with, a lobbying group called the Hemlock Society, which campaigns — with some limited success — for the legalisation of assisted suicide. Humphry, who met his second wife, Ann, while she was suffering from breast cancer — that much has been well-

documented by Granada's researchers — does not emerge well from the programme.

"I got the feeling at one point that perhaps they were having a dig at Derek," Lindsay says. "I started to get defensive about my character. I started to like him a lot and understand his dilemma." What did he like about him? "The fact that he did it. The fact that he loved his [first] wife so much he was prepared to help her end the suffering. I couldn't deal with it if I were in that situation."

Lindsay thinks that Humphrey will not object to the programme, that, because he was once a journalist, he will appreciate that the film is merely one of many possible viewpoints on his crusade.

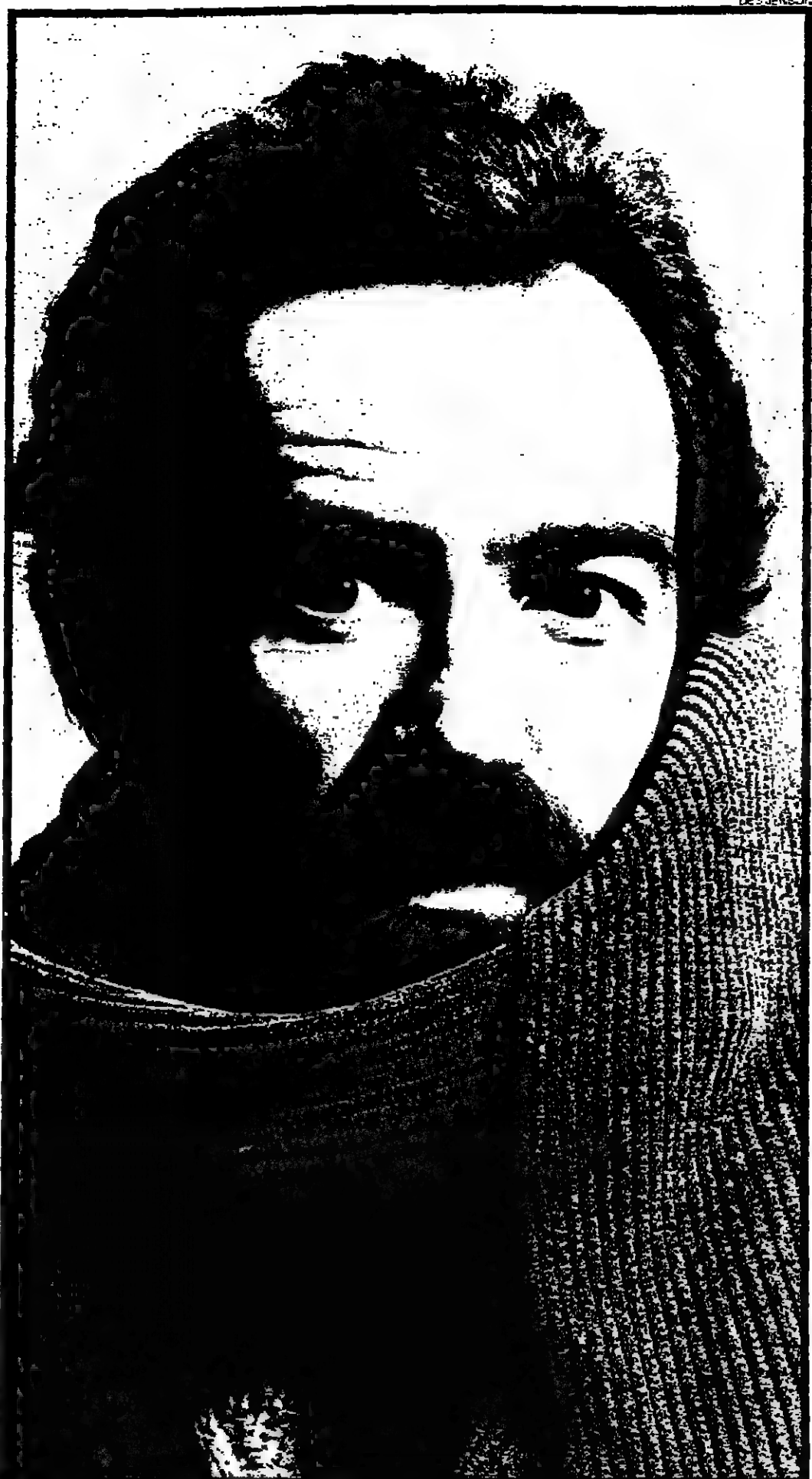
Lindsay was tempted to meet Humphrey, whom he had heard was keen to meet him. At one point, during a break in filming in Virginia last year, he thought about going to Oregon to meet the man he had called "the most interesting person I've ever met." "I was thinking about getting on a plane and Granada were panicking. But I'm not doing an impersonation, that would be hopeless because he is not a famous man anyway. It wouldn't have helped me to meet him from an actor's point of view."

Instead Lindsay prepared by reading Humphry's two books, the second of which is a bestseller in America but still banned here because it is overly informative on the business of taking life. "For an emotional man like myself," Lindsay says, "it was very shocking. I was thinking, 'hold on, this could be my mum

He also watched hours of video of Humphrey on the chaisshow circuit, and this research has paid off handsomely in some of the programme's best scenes. Watching Lindsay on television acting a man who is performing badly on television shows you how good an actor he is. He ought to have very little to worry about.

● Goodbye My Love will be shown tomorrow night on ITV at 10pm

● Valerie Grove is on holiday



Robert Lindsay — perhaps the best actor of his generation, but always on the lookout for a hint of criticism

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Philip Howard



How do you rate non-PC stories, children? a) Super or b) Smashing

A survey indicates that *Matilda* is the hottest film in town for the four to six-year-old cohort. This is as scientific as more expensive opinion polls. The sample may be smaller, but it is sounder because it was sampled by myself, not by street-corner bores with clipboards and silly questions. And the survey shows that little boys prefer the horrible reavenges taken by a dear little schoolgirl on her ogress headmistress to spotted dogs or toy astronauts, or even speaking piglets. And when the ogress swung a child round by her plaits as though throwing the hammer, and hurled her through a window, the gasps of delighted horror drowned even the munching of popcorn in the local Odeon.

So my Pepsi-straw poll confirms the solemn one done by researchers at Surrey University. After extensive studies of 9,000 children, they have concluded that children do not care a popcorn whether their books are politically correct or not. Very few thought it important that their books should reflect their age, sex, colour, class or country of origin. Their favourite author was Roald Dahl, the subversive godfather of *Matilda*. Enid Blyton came second.

"Gosh, I do think it's mean," said George fiercely. "All these horrid critics are so beastly about Aunt Enid and our adventures. It's not our fault that we famous five are all white and polite (most of the time) and come from a nice Home Counties family and have a dog called Timmy." "Don't be rude, George," said her mother. "And anyway, the unkind critics don't seem to affect Aunt Enid's sales." "Wool," said Timmy.

"Gosh," said George. "But I do agree with teacher about one thing. That *Matilda* girl of Mr Dahl's is rude. I think the children who voted for her rather than us must have been jolly badly brought up. And his *Twits* are simply awful." "Perhaps the children were just teasing the pollsters," said her mother. "But children do not simply copy what they read. They read to escape and adventure and float their imaginations. I remember that when I was your age, children were divided between the naughty ones who liked William and the Outlaws and that dreadful Billy Bunter, who came in a comic that we were forbidden to look at, and the good ones who preferred *Swallows and Amazons*. I even knew a boy who liked Angela Brazil better than any of them."

"Grown-ups have always disapproved of their children's reading," said George's father, looking up from his *Times*. "Once upon a time, the only stories for children came from the Bible and mythology. And you can see that those were not very nice from the wall paintings in church, and from the time when Uncle Quentin came up from Kilmartin Island to take you to the National Gallery. All sorts of violence and fibs and murder and goings-on that were even more unsuitable for the nursery bookcase."

"And when the Romantics started to write books especially for children," said George's mother, "they were not much better. I think Grimm's fairy-tales are sadistic. And Hans Andersen is not much better. Our native British tradition of children's stories about rabbits and other small furry animals may be anthropomorphic. But rabbits are safer."

"I am not sure about that," said George's father. "There is a decidedly Freudian subtext to *Alice*, and some deconstructionists find Freud even in loyal *Narnia*. If you lift up any of the classic children's texts you can find creepy-crawlies underneath."

"What's anthropomorphism?" asked George.

"Aunt Enid would say that it was too long a word," explained her father. "But I suppose it means that children should be allowed to adventure where they want in their reading and their imaginations. And if they want to treat their teddy bears and piglets as people, that is one way to learn the difference between bears of little brain and child-rearing-experts of little brain. Children are going to read what they want, anyway. And if they choose to read about insane middle-class twerps like us, who are we to complain? We may lead them on to more satisfying adventures. Reading is like the escalator on the Underground. It leads you up to secret gardens and magic castles. And the journey would be no fun if there were not some spooky attics and saucy advertisements along the way."

The fall of President Milosevic could herald a new Balkan democracy — or chaos, argues Misha Glenny

Loosening the grip of Serbia's iron man

People in the former Yugoslavia never experienced the rush of collective joy which accompanied the collapse of communism in Berlin, Prague or Bucharest. For in Yugoslavia, the events of 1989 stirred up a whirlpool of constitutional chaos and destruction which swallowed up millions of innocents. Its vortex lay in Serbia.

The demographic spread of Serbs in the former Yugoslavia enabled the unscrupulous elites of Serbia and Croatia to indulge in a conflict which led to the annihilation of the Croatian periphery and then all of Bosnia. A Yugoslav friend remarked in 1991: "This war started in Serbia and it will end in Serbia." The vortex is now imploding.

In many respects, Serbia proper is now undergoing its 1989 revolution. President Milosevic succeeded in postponing the event seven years ago by transforming the fears and insecurities of ordinary Serbs into a frenzy of nationalist hatred.

Over the past two centuries, Serbia and the Serbs have suffered from a curious schizophrenia. On the one hand, Serbian nationalism has reflected the classic inferiority complex of small nations: it perceives itself as the victim of unscrupulous imperial power, be this Ottoman, German or, latterly, American. These marauding powers use their local lackeys, be they Croatian, Bosnian or Albanian, as a stick with which to beat the Serbs. On the other hand, in regional struggles Serbia has often tried to play the role which it imputes to the great powers — deploying superior force to resolve territorial issues in its favour.

Slobodan Milosevic was unable to resolve this contradiction. Having

started the Serbs on a programme of nationalist expansion, he found himself isolated by the international community. He dropped his opportunistic nationalism and presided over a massive defeat in Croatia and a partial defeat in Bosnia. Traumatized by war and international sanctions, regarded by the outside world as pariahs, ordinary Serbs are now waking up. Why did this happen? Who is responsible for making their lives such a misery? Mr Milosevic must now pick up a very expensive tab.

The mass opposition to his rule, which extends beyond Belgrade into dozens of towns and cities across the country, is the first sustained outburst of democratic sentiment from below in the current Balkan crisis. In contrast to the nationalism which so poisoned the country in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the demonstrations in Serbia are not being organised by a power-hungry clique, despite attempts by Mr Milosevic's ruling party to portray them in this light.

But the Serbian President is no longer in a position to play the nationalist card by implying that dark external enemies want once again to destroy the Serbs. Since he left the Croatian Serbs to hang and twist in the wind, nobody believes

any more that he is a resolute defender of Serbian national interests. Apparent disquiet about Mr Milosevic in the Yugoslav military (another organisation which the Serbian President has systematically abused) is a striking indication of how his authority is slipping. Nor is the international community fooled. The leopard has changed his spots too often for Washington, London or Bonn to consider him a reliable partner.

This could be the end. But Mr Milosevic is not yet politically buried and he is a far more adept operator than Nicolas Causseaux, the Romanian dictator with whom several commentators have compared the Serbian President in the past few weeks. More importantly, the demonstrations in Belgrade and dozens of other Serbian cities are not merely a belated anti-Communist revolution.

Undoubtedly, there are parallels with 1989. But the violent destabilisation of Yugoslavia over the past five years means that the assault on Mr Milosevic's tottering edifice has more profound implications for the Balkans. Serbia is still involved in varying degrees with the internal affairs of

Croatia, Bosnia and Macedonia. And it has a long-term domestic problem in Kosovo, where a restless Albanian population forms the majority. Kosovo may yet lead to war.

As the demonstrations grew in strength throughout December, the world media began examining the credentials of the protesters' two most influential leaders, Zoran Djindjic of the Democratic Party and Vuk Draskovic, head of the Serbian Renewal Movement. The New York Times implied that the former's connections with the Bosnian Serbs augured ill for the Dayton peace process. Some Western diplomats have voiced a preference for the devil they know, suggesting that Mr Milosevic's fall could trigger another round of Balkan chaos.

This misses the point. Mr Milosevic did not sign the Dayton agreement on his own behalf but on behalf of the rump Yugoslav state. New leaders would have no right to revise these accords unilaterally. In addition, the Zajedno coalition which co-ordinates the demonstrations is a very heterogeneous alliance. This diversity greatly reduces the possibility of capricious acts which might destabilise the Balkans again in the

event of Mr Milosevic losing power. The insistence of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe that Mr Milosevic restore the results of the November local elections is absolutely correct and not an unwarranted interference. Mr Milosevic has been caught red-handed with his fingers in the till of democracy. The OSCE is not demanding his resignation, merely that he should respect principles which are non-negotiable if he wants to achieve his stated goal of reintegration into the European mainstream.

Should the Serbian President accept the democratic will of Serbia, it will probably start a steady erosion of his influence. If, however, he flouts the demands both of the Opposition and the international community, Serbia will again find itself isolated, perhaps provoking the dreadful vortex into turning.

There is no absolute guarantee that the Opposition will contribute to peaceful solutions in Bosnia or in Kosovo. But Serbia still holds the key to stability in the Balkans and the devolution of power away from Mr Milosevic's Socialist Party and the uncompromising neo-Communists led by his wife, Mirjana Markovic, would represent a tremendous encouragement to other democrats in the region. It is not just Serbia which groans under autocracy — in varying degrees, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Albania and Bulgaria suffer under the arbitrary rule of political and economic mafias. If their grip is not loosened, the Balkans will be left behind as the new millennium approaches.

The author's book *The Fall of Yugoslavia* is published by Penguin, £7.99

No such thing as a free lunch

Why do the greedy succumb to promises of wealth, or just something for nothing?

It is well known that a fool and his money are soon parted. But can there be so many fools as to keep the fires of folly and ignorance (particularly ignorance) merrily burning night and day?

I am sorry to say that the answer is a resounding yes, because my theme today is not just pointing to the fools, it is the greater, much greater, theme of greed. For the world is sprinkled with those who covet money more than anything else on earth, and will do anything, sometimes including murder, to get it.

Now I did not come here to tell the world that some people are crooked and some are greedy and — alas — some are foolish, and many, many are ignorant. There always were, and there always

will be, people who love money more than their lives. What I am writing about is human nature, something that I have studied throughout my life with astonishment, pity, horror, laughter, disgust, pain, weariness, rage and disbelief. Especially disbelief. Because we shake our heads at folly, but we shudder — or we should — at greed.

That is where the great financial journalist Tony Hetherington comes in, for he is the greatest of all sniffers-out of crooks and wideboys and scoundrels, and many a decent and honest fool has been saved by Tony from the claws of the crooks. (Ah, but even that honest fool is seeking the stuff which Jesus threw out of the Temple, for there will always be the eternal booby thinking he can get something for nothing.)

Some examples. Take the eternal pyramid scam. You don't know what the pyramid scam is? You should be able to guess by the very name, but if you cannot, here it is. The scammer wishes to die a chunk of money to start with, and the pitiful scammer is supposed to go out and get others to join the scam, and more and more money is supposed to pile up. Unfortunately, this never works (it is an exact parallel of the well-known chain letter) and so the scammer goes home anything up to a few thousand smackers short. One of Tony's most famous and respectable names such as "Invesco, Ashburton, Gartmore and

ProShare", all of which were horrified when they discovered that the shysters were using their names.

But what do you make of anyone — this is a true story — who, looking for modest riches and having a modest nest-egg, instantly succumbs when a reasonably smooth talker says: "We follow a simple philosophic principle — that if you wish to receive, you must first give." And on that statement and nothing else, the person seeking modest riches passes over all those modest riches to a group of polite, even charming money-makers. Don't take my word for it, but see how it ended.

Those who wanted to receive (in due course, naturally) had first to cough up £250 to be scammed, and had to go further and toss no less than £2,500 into the kitty, and

the scammed one was to sign a document which included the words "rewards depend on my own efforts in introducing new members". Well now, I don't know about you, but I reckon that half a

dozen thousand pounds are quite a bit of the ready, particularly when it is all very lily — very lily indeed. And yet these scammers raked in the stuff as though it was moving time in the fields, and the scammed never asked for their money back until every scrap of it had disappeared — and disappeared forever.

I have sometimes asked the diddled person what was in his or her mind when he or she passed over a substantial chunk of money which was never seen again. The answer was always the same: "They looked very honest."

Now it is easy to make a face and say "greed", smiling as you do. To wish to have money is not in itself something bad. But take an absurd analogy: would you wade across a pool that was known to harbour crocodiles? And at night? I repeat: it is greed, yes, but it is not just greed. It is something much deeper and older. Once upon a time, a morrowed man was a very special one. I remember from my childhood the golden sovereign that dangled from my grandfather's watch chain, even though from time to time the whole family came close to having an empty larder.

But what of this next kind of greed, though I still say that it is not only greed? Did you read about that which happened at Sheeky's? Sheeky's is a



fish restaurant in the heart of London, and has been there for 100 years. For such an unbroken line, surely something in the way of rejoicing can be there, and what better rejoicing can there be than a bite and a sup? So for one day, Sheeky's would serve its usual platters but at 1950 prices. And Sheeky's played up splendidly.

Now, Sheeky's can hold roughly 300 people at a go and a squeeze. Sheeky's had orders for 300 people with steamed cod and parsley sauce for 25p, or deep-fried mussels in orange and basil and bread-and-butter pudding for 15p, the idea being that the 300 would come, eat and go. In an orderly manner without getting enormous numbers of eaters eating exactly at the same time. Neat,

eh? Not quite. Because the queue started at 10 o'clock in the morning, and when Sheeky's opened, there was already a queue of more than a thousand people, waiting for a bite and a sup for nothing. Well, nearly nothing.

The queue began to be restless: so restless that the police were called. Remember that it was only about some steamed cod and bread-and-butter pudding (both of which I detest, incidentally). The manageress, Angela Falcone, explained at 3pm that there was no food left, and added: "It was absolute chaos. I could not believe how angry some people were."

I dare say. And one man in the queue said: "They made an offer and should honour it. We haven't even been offered

a coffee." How shocking. But if you looked at the newspaper photographs of the queue, you could see a substantial chunk of it. Whether the chaos that the manageress spoke of had started by then, the picture does not reveal. But what can be immediately seen is that the people in the queue are not tramps, down-and-outs, thugs or pickpockets. They are decent men and women, decently clothed and obviously able to pay what Sheeky's usually charges. What does that mean?

It means, surely, that ordinary people, not hungry or desperate for a pair of worn-out shoes, are steeped in the culture of "it's not actually stealing, so it's all right if no one is looking over our shoulder, and anyway we have to stay in the queue for hours on end."

That is the plebeian version, and we smile at it. We can smile, because we are not involved in the lunacies of, say, Morgan Grenfell. Remember Morgan Grenfell? I do, and I shook my head in wonder, but that is because none of my money was in Morgan Grenfell. And as for the Deutsche Bank (which came to the rescue of Morgan Grenfell), that most perfectly sound and honourable institution could say that "Deutsche Bank is understood to be looking for an outsider with impeccable credentials". Well yes. But when the laughter had died down the nonsense had not.

Oh, don't think these things happen in Britain only. Money is coveted wherever head is on the banknotes, and at this time they were Italian ones. "The head of the Italian state railroad system, one of the best-known figures in his country, has been arrested and detained for questioning on a broad range of criminal charges, including embezzlement, corruption, fraud, abuse of office, false accounting and criminal association." And criminal association. Wow!

There are thieves and burglars and robbers and scammers, and I can understand them, or I think I can. Embezzlement, too, and even the marshy waters of fraud. But what I cannot understand is the men who have great quantities of money — enough to keep them in every comfort forever — who break the law to get even more.

The cadgers of Sheeky's are really in the same boat, though they would deny it. And who are the men and women who lick their lips when they hear of a thing called a pyramid or a scam? They are the people who are about to be robbed, and many of them deserve it. *Bechinnen chan stinken.* That is a Yiddish phrase meaning literally "If it's free, it doesn't matter if it stinks". But that does not encompass Sheeky's thousand-long queue.

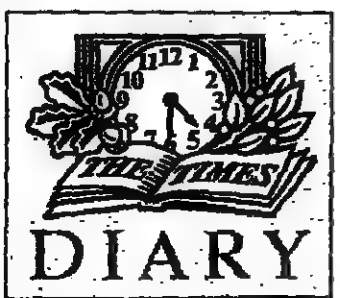
Jam tomorrow

MEMBERS of Parliament who retire this year are doing their best to make sure that the election takes place after the beginning of April. Their concern crosses party political boundaries, for each will be eligible to claim thousands of pounds if the dissolution of Parliament takes place in the new financial year.

Every MP who retires at the general election can claim up to £11,600 if the election is called after the beginning of April, the fees office at Westminster confirmed yesterday. This would be in addition to their retirement pay and pension. Should John Major call an election before April, however, they will not get the money.

"The office costs allowance was increased to £46,364," said the fees office. "If the election takes place after the new financial year, they would be entitled to claim up to a quarter of that."

About 80 MPs have announced their intention to retire at the general election, 62 of them Conservatives. Among Ulster Unionists, who hold the balance of power and could force an election by voting repeatedly against the Govern-



ment, only Sir James Molyneux is planning to retire. But yesterday he was unavailable for comment. Other MPs who are stepping down at the election either claimed not to know of the generous allowance or were reluctant to talk about financial matters after the brouhaha about the huge pay rise they awarded themselves last year. "It's a sensitive issue," said one. "We don't want to stoke up the pay row that we saw last year again."

Late excuse

IN A FATUOUS attempt to justify its recurrent excuse for delayed

trains, Railtrack has saturated stations with a leaflet entitled *Just how do leaves delay trains?*

Train operators cannot be blamed, it explains, nor indeed can Railtrack. "Fallen leaves really do disrupt train services. And not just here in the UK but all over Europe and in the USA."

The leaves themselves take the blame: chestnut, sycamore, poplar and ash are damned as "the worst offenders". Crushed by passing trains, they "carbonise... into a hard, Teflon-like coating on the rails", leaving trains performing wheelpins and smoking impotently on their bogies.

● The bald singer Phil Collins stepped into Albanian national hero Norman Wisdom's shoes yesterday as president of Comic Heritage, which raises money for comedy-related events. Collins has never made me laugh, although he did once appear dressed as a tramp with the great master Ronnie Barker in *The Two Ronnies*.

Real danger

MADRID was full of choking Spaniards on New Year's Eve as the Puerta del Sol clock. Madrid's Big Ben, chimed 12 as double speed. Fast chimers would be no problem

in Britain, but in Spain they like to eat a grape for each chime to bring in the year. Normally the clock's chimes come every 2.7 seconds. This year, however, because of restoration work, they resounded every 1.4 seconds, leaving Spaniards in the square beneath the clock — and those watching on television — with juice dribbling down their chins and cheeks full of pips. The city's horologist-in-chief, Vincente Rodriguez, has been blamed for not slowing down the chimes. Rodri-



quez, however, is a sombre home-bro, jealous of his reputation. Like a real man, he has passed the buck on to his superiors.

Great Scott

OVERLOOKED among most Honours List reports is the KCMG awarded to David Gore-Booth, British High Commissioner in Delhi and former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. It was not so long ago that his chances of advancement took a dive when he was criticised in the Scott report for failing to acknowledge the fact that mistakes in his department might have contributed to "the lamentable fact that a misleading submission had been placed before" William Waldegrave, then Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

Paris cheek

PARISIAN subtlety has yet to infect the brutish charms of Alexander McQueen, the recently appointed British designer-in-chief at Givenchy. In an interview with *Paris Match*, McQueen, 27, whose most notable achievement to date has been the creation of "bumster" trousers, a transference of plumber chic to the catwalk, is pictured in



Piggy in the middle: Galliano (left), McQueen and Westwood.

Givenchy's elegant salon wearing ripped jeans and boater boots and holding a beer.

He dismisses John Galliano, who moved from Givenchy to Dior, as a man of the 1980s and calls Vivienne Westwood "ridiculous" for the strong historical element in her clothes, saying: "No one wants to dress up in period costumes."

"In London, I am at the top," says McQueen, "and I don't want to be drowned by Paris." First stage in his tough-guy strategy is not even to bother learning French. He then plans to show his first ready-to-wear collection away from Paris, as

he finds it all far too pretentious.

● Harbour police were called out on New Year's Day to help to clear up the mess left from hundreds of parties on yachts and on the waterfront the previous evening in the tiny harbour of St Bars in the Caribbean. Sylvester Stallone and Robert De Niro were among the crowds who thronged to the Caribbean island where thousands of champagne bottles and the occasional bird had rendered the water hazardous.

P-H-S



A TALE OF TWO ELECTIONS

Ministers should concentrate on winning the first

Short of installing 40 new telephone lines outside the Department of Health, Stephen Dorrell could not have more blatantly signalled his pessimistic diagnosis of the Prime Minister's condition, nor the feverish nature of his own mind. Mr Dorrell's decision to share with the world his wish for Britain to renegotiate its membership of the EU is a display of ambition too naked for this chill January. Presented as a helpful thought on how the Tories might position themselves for the general election, it is a crude attempt by Mr Dorrell to position himself for a Tory leadership election. It would be unrealistic to imagine that politicians could ever stop calculating how events might advance their own careers. But in their own interests, their party's, and the country's, many of the current Cabinet contenders should show greater maturity.

Although Labour enjoys an historically high and apparently unbridgeable opinion poll lead, the Conservatives could still win the general election. The party's activists certainly think so. Every intervention like Mr Dorrell's, however, makes defeat more likely by revealing that ministers do not have as much faith in their party's electability as its lowlier members. Such interventions so close to the general election do not render their makers any more attractive as potential successors to John Major.

Fellow ministers grown used to office colleagues anxious to hold marginal seats and voters who fear a Labour government will not thank ministers who are attracting attention to their leadership campaigns rather than the party's general election effort. More likely to command, and deserve, respect are those ministers, such as Malcolm Rifkind and Michael Portillo or even William Hague and Ian Lang, who are concentrating on doing their current jobs well rather than soliciting for another.

What makes Mr Dorrell's intervention all the more clumsy is its synthetic feel. Other ministers, most notably Gillian Shepherd and Michael Howard have been energetic in

courting backbench attention, but their positions have seemed more natural. The stance the Education Secretary struck on corporal punishment and, to an even greater extent, the interventions by the Home Secretary on Europe are consonant with their political personalities and history. Considering his record, Mr Dorrell's embrace of renegotiation is as unexpected a sight as a bishop in a bookmaker's. A pessimist, yet, to the left even of Chris Patten, he is an unlikely champion of the sceptic cause. Mr Dorrell's conversion may be genuine but the suspicion must remain that when he leans to the right he is really just tacking into the wind.

The Tories would be well advised, if defeated, not to choose a new leader in haste, lest they have the leisure of long years in opposition to repent. There will be pressure for an early change. Mr Major might be tempted to resign. The rules allow him to be challenged within three months of a new Parliament meeting, which could mean July if there is a general election before May. The Conservatives, however, would probably be better waiting until at least November before contemplating change.

Neil Kinnock's insistence on resigning quickly after defeat in 1992 meant that Labour chose the obvious, rather than the best, leader. It was only tragedy which saved Labour from its folly. The Conservatives should learn from Labour's lesson and have a proper post-mortem before contemplating change. The party conference could be part of that process. A leader chosen by under 300 shell-shocked MPs, a third of whom are new and two thirds of whom are in safe seats, is unlikely to be as capable of winning back Tory support as a candidate who can prove on the public platform that he can reach out to activists from lost marginals. If the Tories are to have any chance of winning this spring, or in the future, they must ensure that their traditional tunes of free enterprise and a free nation are sung by men who know the words by heart.

SMALL CRASH, NOT MANY HURT

Ten years ago: Black Monday was a blip en route to boom

On October 19, 1987, the Dow Jones industrial average, the benchmark indicator for American and global share prices, fell by 508 points, or 25 per cent, in one day. Even before lunchtime, as the London stock market and the bourses of Europe closed down with record losses, the whole world had learnt to describe it as Black Monday, an echo of the 1929 Wall Street Crash. It seemed to symbolise the end of an era.

The astonishing nature of that day's events on Wall Street was illustrated by the reactions of two of the star participants, figures who still dominate finance today. Allan Greenspan, then recently appointed as Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, had left Washington that morning to deliver a speech in Dallas. When he took off the Dow was down "only" 300 points. On arriving in Dallas his first question was how the market had closed. "Five-o-eight down," came the answer. Mr Greenspan responded with relief: "So it ended just 5.08 down? I knew it would bounce back after lunch."

Meanwhile back in New York, George Soros, who had just earned his first cover story in *Fortune* as the "world's greatest investor", was suffering the worst day so far in his turbulent financial life. Mr Soros had bet his entire fortune, as was his wont, on a seemingly foolproof wager: Wall Street might eventually fall, but when it did, the vastly more overvalued market in Tokyo would fall much further. But, defying all logic, Tokyo fell only slightly and he was forced to capitulate, taking a loss of \$700 million as he liquidated thousands of futures contracts into the tumbling market. "Technically this is 1929," he despairingly told the *Financial Times*.

Misses Greenspan and Soros, along with thousands of others, were wrongfooted on the day by the market panic. But, with the benefit of hindsight, their plegmatic initial instincts were clearly right — 1987 was not a year for panicking like it. After the 1929 crash, shares took more than 20 years to recover their peak levels. After 1987, a rebound began almost immediately. A recovery took less than two years. Anyone "foolish" enough to have bought American shares at their pre-peak in July 1987 would now be more than twice as rich. And Mr Soros was right about the real locus of instability in the world economy. The Tokyo market and the Japanese financial system did eventually collapse. The crash in Tokyo was genuinely comparable to 1929: seven years after the Tokyo crash, Japanese shares are still worth less than half what they were at their peak.

What conclusion can be drawn by today's policymakers and investors? Stock market investment is a risky game in the short run, but offers rich rewards for those with a steady nerve. Share prices do not rise in a straight line. After the past two years of bumper profits a period of bumpy trading may lie ahead. But in the end the value of companies reflects the performance of economies. In 1987 the capitalist world was on the threshold of a new era of prosperity. The financial markets' confidence proved well founded in 1987. Will the same be true ten years later? The answer is "no", to judge by the falls in stock markets around the world yesterday. But one day's trading is no guide to what lies ahead, either for the markets or for the world economy — that is the one sure lesson from Black Monday.

PLOTTED AND PIECED

Common law and common sense support the hedgerow

Britain's countryside is defined by its hedgerows: ancient, vibrant corridors of wildlife between its fields and pastures that leave the landscape "plotted and pieced — a fold, fallow, and plough" in the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins. Postwar farming, however, has wreaked more destruction on this timeless aspect of England's glory than bombs ever caused to its cities. Mile upon mile of hedgerow has been uprooted to create pastures for combine harvesters. Huge swaths of countryside have been swept bare of all defining features in the scramble to grow ever more, ever more intensively.

Yesterday's victory in Hull County Court by a campaigner demanding the enforcement of a 1765 Enclosures Act that forbids the destruction of any hedgerow is therefore a landmark judgment in every sense. It may, finally, give legislative teeth to faltering government attempts to combat the pernicious effects of the common agricultural policy. It will certainly influence the Government's promised hedgerow legislation.

The issue on which Colin Seymour brought his challenge may be trivial, and arguably against the interests of his village, which wanted to build a bowling green in place of an ugly, unkempt hedge. But the precedent is immensely important, and conservationists across the country have recog-

nised the wider implications. There are around 4,500 different Acts in England and Wales that control the 40,000 miles of hedgerow, so a blanket interpretation of the one in question may be difficult. Producers can now challenge the uprooting of ancient hedges — lost at the rate of 5,000 miles a year between 1946 and 1974. And the ruling may even oblige farmers and developers to replant some of those already destroyed.

Hedgerows are not only aesthetic boundaries framing the intimacy of Britain's fields: they are cover, breeding grounds and sources of food for bank voles and wood mice, linnet's, redwings and chaffinches, and hunting corridors for weasels and stoats. Sheep and cattle find windbreaks; and even motorists are protected from ice and snowdrifts by their shelter.

Mr Seymour has made litigation a lifetime obsession. That does not diminish the importance of his reaffirmation of the ability of a determined individual, through the dogged pursuit of ancient rights, to insist on common law being applied with common sense. "See, banks and brakes now leaved how thick! Laced they are again with fretty chevri!" Hopkins wrote. Thanks to Mr Seymour, East Anglia's unbroken flat vistas may again be dotted with white thorn flowers and scarlet berries.

Risks of justice on the cheap

From Professor William L. Reynolds and Professor William M. Richman

Sir, As American law professors, we are distressed to learn that the judges of the British Court of Appeal are planning to hire young lawyers as American-style law clerks, to assist them with an ever-growing caseload (reports, November 15, 29). That is a most unfortunate expedient, judging from the long and unhappy experience of American appellate courts, and we trust that Britain will learn from our experience.

The use of judicial assistants, both here and in Britain, is prompted by a desire to save judicial resources, a goal which can be realised only if the judges delegate significant decision-making authority to them. All judges love delegation: it permits them to avoid personal involvement in the less interesting cases involving apparently routine problems of poor persons.

British judges will soon realise, of course, that if they hire more assistants they can avoid an even larger number of unpleasant and dreary cases. It is but a short step from that realisation to the hiring of assistants who are not responsible to individual judges but to the court as a whole, who do not work under individual judicial supervision and who handle the least exciting cases of all.

The result, in America at least, is that an ever-increasing number of law clerks bear an ever-increasing responsibility for decision-making. While the real judges reserve their energies for the "important" cases, the clerks effectively decide the "less important" cases involving the poor and powerless. The process seems irreversible: once judges realise that more clerks make it easier for the judges to distance themselves from the commonplace problems of the mass of society.

Politicians embrace the trend towards more judicial assistants because it saves money: they are cheaper than judges. The only losers are the poor — and some vague abstraction called justice.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM L. REYNOLDS,
WILLIAM M. RICHMAN
(Toledo Law School),
University of Maryland,
School of Law,
300 West Baltimore Street,
Baltimore, MD 21201-1786,
December 30.

MPs' accord over ex-service unit

From Mr Alfred Morris, MP for Manchester Wythenshawe (Labour and Co-operative)

Sir, The letter from the Secretary General of the Royal British Legion (December 24) is a timely reminder of the Government's failure to arrest the growth of parliamentary support for my early day motion (19) calling for an ex-service affairs unit in Whitehall to address the problems and needs of ex-service people and their dependants.

Indeed, the more strongly ministers criticise the motion, the more support it attracts from MPs of all parties. This is not an issue that divides one side of Parliament from the other. Instead it is fast becoming one that divides Government from Parliament as a whole.

The letter of the same date from Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish does not help the Government's case. If there were any substance to his fears of "expensive duplication" and "an extra layer of bureaucracy", the same would apply just as strongly to the Government's creation of a unit to co-ordinate its policies on disability issues.

Lord Mackay's letter reminds me of a Conservative MP's wise advice to his former colleagues at the Ministry of Defence, when we were campaigning for a better deal for war widows in 1989. He asked them to recognise that the Government's only real choice was whether or not to retreat gracefully. We must hope that this time they make the right choice.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED MORRIS,
House of Commons,
December 30.

'Perilous state' of theatre funding

From Sir Peter Hall

Sir, I must take issue with Richard Morrison. In his round-up of the arts in 1996 ("Cheers, tears and a lot of hot air", December 28) he wrote: "The wails about falling subsidy were as doleful as ever, particularly from theatre folk."

This is almost worthy of a Tory Arts Minister in full voice. Shouldn't Mr Morrison be backing the theatre people? Has he not noticed the perilous state of funding of our regional theatres? Doesn't he know that they provide our future audiences as well as our future professionals? Doesn't he know that the finances of our major national companies are dangerously fragile? If he really believes that there is enough money for the arts, I beg him to think again.

Morrison, after his glib, continues: "Yet Sir Peter... announced six new plays and much else for the revitalised Old Vic."

The Old Vic season is the result of the philanthropy of two Canadians, David and Edward Mirvish. They have saved the Old Vic, refurbished it and are backing the season. The fact that I have been lucky enough to have generous patrons should not be used to obscure the current very real woes of the theatre.

Yours sincerely,
PETER HALL,
The Peter Hall Company
at the Old Vic,
Waterloo Road, SE1,
December 30.

Winning spirit

From Mrs Eloise Akpan

Sir, Matthew Parris describes Mrs Frances Lawrence as a victim (article, December 23). It is exactly because of her refusal to lie down and be a victim that I, for one, voted for her as the *Today* programme's Personality of the Year.

She is a fighter, and let us hope that with the help of the rest of us she turns out to be a winner in her campaign.

Yours faithfully,
ELOISE AKPAN,
28 Hurlstone Road, SE25,
December 24.

Penny wise

From Mr David Buchan

Sir, The new £2 coins (report and picture, December 18) are all very well. The real requirement are 99p and 49p coins.

Such denominations would save so much hassle at checkout tills — not to mention wear and tear on purses and trouser pockets. For once a penniless state would be something of a bonus.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID A. BUCHAN,
13 Daimier Way, Wallington, Surrey,
December 24.

And by the way...

From Mrs Muriel Teece

Sir, In this wonderful age of word-processing, when a mistake, an extra paragraph, any further thoughts can so easily be deleted from or inserted into the typewritten work, why do so many of the mailshots I receive from banks, double-glazing firms, MPs etc have a PS?

Yours faithfully,
MURIEL TEECE,
32 Belgrave Road,
Great Boughton, Chester.

Eye of the beholder

From Mrs Annette Haswell

Sir, New parents are nowadays to be congratulated on producing, according to the birth columns, beautiful daughters, handsome sons, enchanting twins.

We got boiled-looking, angry babies; where did we go wrong?

Yours faithfully,
ANNETTE HASWELL,
The Grey House,
Lymington, Folkestone, Kent.

Fathers who smoke

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, I wrote (letter, December 30) to reassure smoking fathers "who have young children". My eldest child, Christopher, now writes (January 1) to inform you that he is 52 today.

This is indisputable but not entirely relevant. My youngest, Sean, turned 15 in November.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
Killegar, Co. Leitrim,
January 1.

Real time?

From Dr Kenneth Swinburne

Sir, There is surely something very strange about a wristwatch, as advertised on your front page (December 23), with an implicit life of 4.5 billion years, and a guarantee of only three years. Can you advise?

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH SWINBURNE,
16 Foxhill Crescent,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
December 23.

Lessons of the past on Hong Kong

From Sir Percy Cradock

Sir, In your leading article, "Midnight chimes" (December 24), you rightly present the termination of the existing Legislative Council and the setting up of the provisional legislature as a serious setback to democracy in Hong Kong. But you omit to mention the cause, namely the British attempt since 1992 to impose unilateral electoral changes.

We had repeated Chinese warnings, going back over years, of what would happen if we took that course. They were disregarded. In consequence, instead of a through-train for an elected legislature, as was agreed with China before 1992, we have a Chinese-appointed body. The provisional legislature is no isolated Chinese act, but the Patten policy come home to roost.

We cannot hope to develop sensible policies towards China and Hong Kong in the future if we refuse to face the facts of the past.

Yours faithfully,
PERCY CRADOCK,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1,
December 27.

Customer service

From Mr A. D. MacPherson

Sir, The *Today* programme on Radio 4 this morning spent considerable time on the improvements in customer service as a result of privatisations in the last 17 years, but I wonder if the following example from the US can be improved upon?

Yesterday evening, I was talking on the telephone to a close friend in Newport, Rhode Island. She told me that they had come home after a New Year's Eve party at 1.30am to find that their central heating had broken down (the ambient temperature was 12 degrees below freezing). They rang their oil contractor's repair service and by 3am the installation had been repaired and was in full working order again.

Yours sincerely,
A. D. MACPHERSON,
Stillwaters, East Street,
Milborne Port, Sherborne, Dorset,
January 2.

Sexism in the Church

From the Reverend Malcolm A. Johnson

Sir, Would someone please point me in the direction of Prince Charles's "pathetic politically correct progressivism" in the Church of England (leading article, "Charles and his Church", December 30)? After 34 years as a priest I see no sign of them.

Our bishops, carefully vetted by 10 Downing Street, are chosen by a secret cabal called the Crown Appointments Commission; there are no women bishops or deans and very few women archdeacons, residential canons or incumbents. Some congregations will not have their ministrations at any price and have their own bishops.

Homosexual clergy, approximately 15 per cent of the workforce, are told to lead celibate, hidden lives and ethnic minorities still experience the cold shoulder in many congregations. The General Synod continues to be obsessed with ecumenical legislation and internal problems.

A few politically correct progressives might bring us some much needed new life in 1997.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM JOHNSON
(Master),
The Royal Foundation of
Saint Katharine,
2 Butcher Row, E14,
December 30.

Sounds of silence

From Mr Eric R. Stevens

Sir, Your leading article, "Imperfect peace" (December 24), considering the relationship of noise and peace was, I feel, unnecessarily one-sided.

Why should the noise of beepers be any less acceptable than the noise of church bells? Surely there was a case for balancing the issue by identifying some, at least, of the benefits of modern technology in overcoming noise.

My nights are now totally undisturbed owing to the marvels of silent digital clocks and watches which have replaced those quaint but noisy clockwork devices. Thick lagging and double glazing, installed primarily for heat conservation, keep out external noises. My house is silent, and certainly quieter than Cader Idris.

Your assessment of the Buddhist on the mountain confuses solitude and silence. The two are not synonymous. With 60 mile an hour winds he may be alone but he will not enjoy silence.

Yours etc,
ERIC R. STEVENS,
Scotney, Southover Place,
Spring Lane, Burwash, East Sussex,
December 24.

150 years ago

From Mr Colin R. Riches

Sir, Your third leader, "A good shelf life" (December 30), certainly makes out a convincing case for 1847 as a vintage year for the English novel. However this "annus mirabilis" is even more distinguished if one adds the name of Anthony Trollope, whose first novel, *The Mademoiselle of Balylorlan*, was presented to the "dear reader" in that self-same year.

In 1929 the novelist Sir Hugh Walpole declared it to be "almost in the first flight of Trollope".

Yours faithfully,
COLIN R. RICHES,
Capuchine House,
19 Church Street, Hereford,
December 31.

Currency control

From Miss Adrienne May

Sir, Of course, as Mr John Evert suggests in his letter (December 28), citing mine of December 21, exchange rates taken out of their economic context can be misleading, but a weak economy begets a weak currency. That is what devaluation has been about. The pound has done, in many cases, much worse than other world currencies; therefore, other than for reasons of sentiment why should it be so important to retain it?

Mr Evert asks whom I would like to control the economy: certainly not any political party in power, here or elsewhere. It is too open to gerrymandering. Nor the Bank of England, subservient to government, immersed in the City "old boy network", that failed in the BCCI and Barings affairs. If a Eurobank could run our economy as well as the Bundesbank has for Germany, then why not? It all depends on the solidity of the convergence criteria.

We must stop fooling ourselves that we in the UK are chosen by God to lead the world, superior morally, intellectually, democratically, judicially and dynamically. This attitude, bordering on xenophobia, is what I find so distasteful in the Europhobic wing.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIENNE MAY,
2 Burton Close,
Nr Walsingham, Norfolk,
December 28.

Ribbons or bows?

From Dr Helen Walters

Sir, In a recent trade paper I read with interest an article about bow-ties. The ability to don one small item of clothing that instantly made you "stand out from the crowd" and appear "distinctive, artistic and thoughtful" was very attractive.

My only problem is, as a female GP, what do I wear to achieve the same effect?

Yours sincerely,
HELEN WALTERS,
Kynabrey,
34 New Road, Whitehill, Hampshire.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, will visit the London International Boat Show, Earls Court, London SW5, on January 8.

Premium Bonds

The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for January, 1997 was won by bond number 2670 170288. The winner lives in South Yorkshire, and has a bond holding of 16,000.

Birthdays today

Brigadier Sir John Anstey, former president, National Savings Committee, 90; Mr David Aueron, conductor, 93; Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, 95; Mr John Bamber, former Principal Lecturer, College, Oxford, 78; Mr Michael Barrar, broadcaster, 69; Mr Victor Borge, pianist and comedian, 88; Mr Keith Brookman, trade unionist, 60; Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary, 85; Sir Bryan Carless, former Director-General, Office of Fair Trading, 58; Mr Fran Cotton, former rugby player, 49; Sir Alastair Forbes, former president, Court of Appeal, 68; Mr John Gifford, actor, 41; Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord-Lieutenant of Gwent, 72; Sir Roy Harding, education consultant, 73; Mr Gavin Hastings, rugby player, 35; Mr Robert Hughes, MP, 65; Admiral Sir Michael Layard, 61; Miss Anna Linden, former ballerina, 64; Sir George Martin, composer and record producer, 71; Mr Eric Martlew, MP, 48; Sir Carol Maister, former MP, 78; Mr Siegmund Nasse, former member, Anandus Quartet, 75; Sir John Riddell, extra equerry to the Prince of Wales, 63; Miss Shirley Roberts, former deputy director, Consumers' Association, 80; Mr Graham Ross, Russell, former chairman, EMAP, 64; Mr Nicholas Schole, chairman and chief executive, Jaguar, 53; Mr Michael Schumacher, racing driver, 28; Mr R. Steedman, architect, 68; Mr Matthew Taylor, MP, 34; Mr John Thaw, actor, 55; Mr David Vine, sports commentator, 62.

Scottish judiciary

Lord Cullen to be Lord Justice Clerk in succession to Lord Ross who will retire on January 1. Lord Cullen is a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland. He chaired the Court of Inquiry into the Piper Alpha disaster and undertook the public inquiry into the Dunblane tragedy.

Appointment

Sir Timothy Garden succeeds Professor Sir Laurence Martin as Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House).

Magnificent Edwardian courts are back in session again

Northern splendour survives £1.2m refit

BY MARCUS BINNEY
ARCHITECTURE
CORRESPONDENT

WORKMEN are putting the finishing touches to an immaculate £1.2 million restoration of one of the finest groups of law courts in the North of England. The magnificent Edwardian Sessions House in Preston looked brand new when new combined courts opened a decade ago in the town but rising demand for court space has led the Lord Chancellor's Department to refurbish the old building for continued use.

Brian Tower, the project architect at the Hurd Rolland Partnership, said: "We have had to make quite a few changes but our brief was that at the end of the job no one should be aware of them."

The latest Home Office regulations demand facilities that many old court buildings do not provide, including separate access for witnesses and jury members.

"We have reversed all the furniture in the courtrooms so that witnesses come in from the same side as the judges and share their privacy," Mr Tower said.

A court spokesman explained: "The High Court judges will sit here on more serious cases. The old courtrooms have the advantage of much larger public galleries, taking 40 people rather than 20. Seats are separated by a central aisle so that in a tense murder trial, the victim's family can be seated on one side and the defendant's on the other with a security guard in between."

At the same time the central dock in each court, which seated only four, has been enlarged to take eight or more. "Defendants in the old days must have been much stunner," was one comment. Preston's handsome Sessions House was designed to complement the magnificent dock. Revival Harris Library and Art Gallery next door which was completed 12



The superbly refurbished hall of the Edwardian Sessions House at Preston

years earlier. The court's 170ft-high tower is a match for the spires of Wren's City of London churches and the bold Baroque facades with elaborate wrought iron balconies have the sophistication of French 18th-century public buildings. The courts were designed by the Lancashire county architect, Henry Litheridge, who also designed the girls' grammar school at Lancaster. The sculpture including statues of Hercules and Britannia and much of the interior decoration and detailing was done

largely to the designs of Gilbert Seale, responsible for much of the sculpture at the Old Bailey in London. When the court reopens next month, the judges will once again use their own imposing staircases and the public gather under a magnificent domed hall with a black and white marble floor. The twin courts are as sumptuous as many City livery halls, with a distinctly northern touch of polished green glazed tiles on the lower walls.

Among other new features

the refurbished courts have interviewing rooms for lawyers, robing rooms, child waiting rooms, what was a smoking room for what was a no-smoking building. They are wired for video links allowing child witnesses to give evidence without entering court.

James Stevenson, the partner in charge of the project at Hurd Rolland, said: "You can get more out of an old building than a new one, providing exciting spaces and showing there is life in the old dog yet."

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James Stevenson, the partner in charge of the project at Hurd Rolland, said: "You can get more out of an old building than a new one, providing exciting spaces and showing there is life in the old dog yet."

Among other new features

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Perham

and Miss A.E.M. Napier
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Dr and Mrs Geoffrey Perham, of Plymouth, Devon, and Araminta, younger daughter of the late Hon. Greville Napier and of the Hon. Mrs Greville Napier, of Teyford, West Sussex.

Mr W.S.G.A. Canale

and Miss O.P. Jiles
The engagement is announced between William, youngest son of Sir Peter and Lady Canale, of London and Whitehaven, Whitehaven, and Olga, younger daughter of Colonel Pavel Jiles, of Moscow, Russia, and Dr. Jiles, of Moscow, Russia.

Mr E.D.V. Black

and Miss D.E. Black
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr N.V. Black, of Shiplake, and Mrs A.G. Black, of Shiplake, and Dora, daughter of Captain J.T. Black and Mrs G. Black, of Thatchfield, Hampshire.

Mr M. Brown

and Miss G. McDermott
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs David Brown, of Wexley, and Geraldine, daughter of the late Mr Francis McDermott and Mrs Elizabeth McDermott, of Liverpool.

Mr J.A. Comisar

and Miss J.M. Warburton
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Comisar, of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Julia, daughter of the late Mr Francis McDermott and Mrs Elizabeth McDermott, of Liverpool.

Mr G.C. de Castro Canales

and Miss S.E. Mithford
The engagement is announced between Gervasio, youngest son of Senor Jose Jorge Canales and Senora Maria Fernandez Canales, of Coimbra, Portugal, and Sarah, daughter of Dr and Mrs Tim Mithford, of Brixton, Hampshire.

Mr A.K.O. Gough

and Miss K.L. Shaw
The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr John Gough, of Farnham, Oxfordshire, and Mrs K.L. Shaw, of Clifton, Bristol, and Catherine, daughter of Dr and Mrs Sean Shaw, of Dorban, South Africa.

Mr T.E. Burchett

and Miss A.L. Dunlop
The engagement is announced between Tony, son of Mr and Mrs E.F. Burchett, of Pembury, Kent, and Andrea, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Dunlop, of Lifford, Sussex.

Mr M.N.S. Edwards

and Miss L.M. Granville
The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Edwards, and Lucy, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Granville.

Mr R.R. Greenhouse

and Miss M.W.M. Veltman
The engagement is announced between Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs D.A. Greenhouse, of Kildare, and Marjorie, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.C. Veltman, of Wiveton, Norfolk.

Mr G.J. Holden

and Miss C.D. Thompson
The engagement is announced between George, son of Mr and Mrs G.J. Holden, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Thompson, of Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

Mr G.P.C. Mackay

and Miss C. Bosley
The engagement is announced between Giles, younger son of Mr and Mrs Oliver Mackay, of Diss, Norfolk, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Bosley, of Stanmore, Middlesex.

Mr C.E. Maxwell

and Miss D.K.E. Campbell
The engagement is announced between Clayton, elder son of Mr and Mrs P.S. Maxwell, of Yeshiva Farm, Chipping, Hereford, and Doreen, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.R.E. Campbell, of Catterham, Kent.

Mr M.A.C. Bell

and Miss K.L. Bell
The engagement is announced between Marcus, son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs David Bell, of Witleigh, Surrey, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Bell, of Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Mr M.R. Preston

and Miss K. Whistler
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Roger Preston, of Thorroth, North Yorkshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Whistler, of Ravenshoe, Cheshire.

Mr A.K. MacDonald

and Miss L.M. Budge
The engagement is announced between Allan, elder son of Mr John MacDonald, MBE, GMHC, and Mrs MacDonald, of Glenrobert, Fife, and Imogen, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Bailey, of Walton on Thames, Surrey.

Mr C.J.T. Morris

and Miss D.J. Clements
The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Morris, of Halesford, Kent, and Dyan, youngest daughter of the late Mr Peter Clements and Mrs Clements, of Pakuranga, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signor R. Rampini

and Miss J. Armstrong
The engagement is announced between Raimondo, son of Signor Rampini, of Calais-Chant, Siena, Italy, and Jessica, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Armstrong, of Upton St Lawrence, Somerset.

Mr M.L. Roberts

and Miss K.E. Longman
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Clifford Roberts, of North Cave, Humberside, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Longman, of Blyth, West Yorkshire.

Mr G.R.H. Scott

and Miss S.L. Danich
The engagement is announced between George, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Scott, of Eggescliffe, Cleveland, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Daniels, of Ringside, Hampshire.

Mr A.V. Schenini

and Miss W.J. Robertson
The engagement is announced between Adriano, only son of Mr and Mrs Sandro Schenini, of Finchley, London, and Wendy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Robertson, of Whitstable, Kent.

Captain R.C. Steptoe

and Miss J. Davis
The engagement is announced between Captain Rupert Steptoe, of Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Robert Steptoe, of Crookston, Wiltshire, and Julie, daughter of the late Mr Malcolm Davis and Mrs Jan Davis, of Chobham, Surrey.

Anniversaries

DEATHS: Jewish Wedgwood, pottery, Burnley, Lancashire, 1975; Rachel (Ellis) Pells, actress, 1975; Pierre Larousse, lexicographer, 1875; William Harrison Ainsworth, historical novelist, 1870; James Elroy Flecker, poet, 1910; James Joyce, Irish novelist, 1942; William Joyce, Lord Hawtrey, 1944; Edwin Muir, writer, 1957; Conrad Hilton, hotel magnate, 1979; Martin Luther, founder of Protestantism, was commemorated, 1521.

The siege of Sidney Street took place when anarchists led by Peter the Painter were besieged by British troops in the East End of London, 1911.

Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings, near Luxor, 1922.

Sir Edmund Hillary reached the South Pole, 1953.

International Monetary Fund lent £2,300 million to Britain, 1977.

BMD5: 0171 680 6880

PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982

FAX: 0171 481 9313

God gave us the privilege of laying the foundation for a stable future.

Let each take care how he builds. 1 Corinthians 3: 10

BIRTHS

ARRIS - On Christmas Eve, to David (nee Morris-Jones) and Michael, a son, Felix Henry.

BANVILLE - On December 29th at the Portland Hospital, to Felicia and Dr. Michael Banville, a son, Michael James.

BLACKWELL - On December 23rd 1996 at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Dr. John and Mrs. (nee O'Hara) and John, a son, James Gerard John, a brother for Eadie.

CARY - On December 31st 1996, to Nathaniel and Sally Ann (nee Taylor), a daughter, Isabella Grace, a sister for Sophie, Emma and Patrick.

CAVANAGH - On 29th December 1996, to Dr. David Cavanagh and Mrs. (nee O'Hara) and John, a son, James Gerard John, a brother for Eadie.

COOPER - On 28th December at the Portland Hospital, to David and Sally Ann (nee Taylor), a daughter, Isabella Grace, a sister for Sophie, Emma and Patrick.

DEBONO - On 20th December 1996 at St. Mary's Hospital, London, to David and Sally Ann (nee Taylor), a daughter, Isabella Grace, a sister for Sophie, Emma and Patrick.

FARMER - On 27th December 1996, to Helen (nee Barr) and Paul, a son, Paul Joseph, a brother for John, David, and Michael.

FOLZ - On December 28th, 1996 at the Portland Hospital, to David and Sally Ann (nee Taylor), a daughter, Isabella Grace, a sister for Sophie, Emma and Patrick.

GREEN - Douglas and Susan (nee Barr) are thrilled to announce the arrival of Polly Rose, our beautiful daughter, born on December 25th 1996.

KARNE - On Christmas Eve at the Portland Hospital, to David and Sally Ann (nee Taylor), a daughter, Isabella Grace, a sister for Sophie, Emma and Patrick.

KARNE - Adriana, a son to Anna and John on November 30th 1996. Welcome to our lives, a new year, and happiness, a wonderful future. We love you.

MACGILL - To Euan and Anne, a son, Alexander (Alec) James, a brother for John, David, and Michael.

MACRAY - On December 20th 1996, to Anne and John, a daughter, Emma Rose.

MAURICE - On Christmas Eve, to David and Sally Ann (nee Taylor), a daughter, Isabella Grace, a sister for Sophie, Emma and Patrick.

ROBINSON - On 15th December, in New York, to Kate (nee Robinson) and Peter, a son, Alexander (Alec) James, a brother for John, David, and Michael.

STANFORD - On Christmas Day in the Salford of Oman, to Fiona (nee Barr) and John, a daughter, Isabella Grace, a sister for Sophie, Emma and Patrick.

BIRTHS

WHITEHEAD - On 27th December in New York, to David and Sally Ann (nee Taylor), a daughter, Isabella Grace, a sister for Sophie, Emma and Patrick.

DEATHS

APPLIN - Henry Godfrey on December 31st aged 89, much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral service at 11.30 am, 13th January at St. Paul's Cathedral, London. Burial at 11.30 am, 13th January at St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

ATKINSON - On 27th December 1996, to David and Sally Ann (nee Taylor), a daughter, Isabella Grace, a sister for Sophie, Emma and Patrick.

BARKER-BENFIELD - On December 28th 1996, to David and Sally Ann (nee Taylor), a daughter, Isabella Grace, a sister for Sophie, Emma and Patrick.

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THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JANUARY 3 1997

Bigger Mac means 5,000 jobs to be filled in 1997

By Sarah Cunningham

MCDONALD'S, the American burger chain, yesterday became the latest service sector company to unveil plans to create new jobs in Britain this year, saying it will hire 5,000 mostly part-time staff.

McDonald's will spend more than £10 million opening 110 new restaurants this year. Most will be drive-through establishments and around 90 per cent of the new staff will be paid by the hour. Last year the company created nearly 4,500 new jobs in Britain by opening 90 new restaurants.

In the last few weeks Marks & Spencer,

Safeway and B&Q have announced plans to hire thousands of new staff. In the pub and restaurant business, Greenalls said last month that it will create 1,000 new jobs, while Whitbread, joint owners with PepsiCo of the Fizzie Hot chain, said that it was creating 5,000 new jobs by opening 150 new branches of restaurant over the next four years.

Government figures released last month showed unemployment falling below two million in November for the first time since 1991. But while the fall in the number of jobless and the increase in service-sector job creation have been hailed by Government

supporters as evidence of the return of the "feel-good" factor, critics have pointed out that, as at McDonald's, many of the new posts on offer give little security and relatively low pay.

McDonald's pointed out yesterday that nearly 60 per cent of its restaurant managers started as hourly-paid staff. "These are real jobs with long-term prospects," it said.

Around three quarters of the new McDonald's will be housed in prefabricated buildings at out-of-town retail parks or multiplex cinemas. The prefabs are a relatively cheap and speedy option: it can

take as little as nine days from the levelling of a site to the opening of a new restaurant.

The company hopes to open 38 restaurants in London and the South, 28 in the Midlands and Wales, 27 in the North, 12 in Scotland and five in Northern Ireland.

Last year new branches of McDonald's were opened in retail parks, converted pubs, at Sega World in London's Piccadilly Circus, on Stena ferries and even inside a Royal Navy base at Devonport.

There have been signs of McDonald's losing out in the popularity stakes in its highly competitive home market, and in October it reported a decline in domestic

sales for the fifth quarter in a row. However, research shows that the company's market share in the UK continues to grow.

Taylor Nelson, the pollsters, show that in the last three months of 1996, McDonald's claimed 78 per cent of the burger market — up from 75 per cent a year earlier — with Burger King at 14 per cent.

Since it was founded in the early 1950s the company has opened restaurants in 96 countries and now has more than 20,000 restaurants in the US. Although it has slowed the rate of expansion in its domestic market, it still plans to open about 2,500 there during the coming year.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES		
FTSE 100	4057.4	(-61.1)
Yield	3.82%	
FTSE All share	1899.79	(-23.88)
Nikkei	Closed	
Dow Jones	6407.88	(-41.18)
S&P Composite	735.22	(-5.52)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(Closed)
Long Bond	9 1/4%	
Yield	8.74%	

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	8 1/4%	(Closed)
Libor long gilt	108 1/2	
Libor short gilt	108 1/2	

STERLING

New York	1.6865	(Closed)
London		
\$	1.6807	
DM	2.5088	
FF	5.7885	
Sfr	2.2710	
Yen	195.51	
S index	65.5	

US\$ DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.8418	(Closed)
FF	5.7885	
Sfr	1.3440	
Yen	115.50	
S index	65.5	

TOKYO

Tokyo close Yen 118.00		
Yen 118.00		
Yen 118.00		

EURO

London close	8985.85	(Closed)
denotes midday trading price		

Dow fears send UK shares tumbling

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

EUROPEAN stock markets took a new year hammering yesterday as Wall Street wobbled badly again on fears of higher US interest rates.

Wall Street, which had plunged by more than 300 points on Tuesday, the last trading day of 1996, yesterday slumped another 90 points before recovering some composite. The Dow Jones Industrial average stood 60 points lower when the London market closed, and subsequently trimmed the loss to 40 points.

That recovery was too late for London, where the FTSE 100 index closed 61.1 points lower to close at 4,057.4. Shares in France dropped by more than 2.5 per cent and German shares were down more than 2 per cent.

The trigger for yesterday's selling was a healthy economic report from America's National Association of Purchasing Management, which raised fears that the US Federal Reserve may be forced into raising interest rates to counter the threat of inflation. The NAPM index rose to 54.0 in December, well above Wall Street forecasts of 52.3.

The purchasing managers' index is watched extremely closely in America because it has, in the past, seemed to trigger rate moves by the Federal Reserve. The Fed started its last cycle of tightening monetary policy in early 1994, when the NAPM hit 55.3. It raised rates five more times in 1994 and 1995 when the index stood between 55.8 and 59.5.

The report also sent US Treasury bonds tumbling, depressing the benchmark 30-year bond by more than a full percentage point. The dollar fell against the yen, quoted in late European trading at ¥116.08 late on Tuesday. But it edged up against a weak mark to DM1.5411 from DM1.5400 previously.

The fallout in London

time despite the fact that the latest British purchasing managers' survey, also published yesterday, showed that the strength of sterling was beginning to have a negative impact on manufacturers and also to depress housing demand.

The purchasing managers' index slipped to 52.3 in December, its lowest reading for four months. Both output and orders fell sharply, a development most economists attributed to the strength of sterling. The pound's appreciation also led to a decline in the purchasing managers' price index to 42.2 from 42.5.

David Wallis of Goldman Sachs said that, taken in isolation, the latest British purchasing managers' report strengthened the case for leaving British interest rates on hold at the January 15 monetary meeting between Kenneth Clark, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England. He still believes that strong consumer demand will mean interest rates go up either this month or next.

But the strength of sterling is beginning to change the balance of the argument. After the purchasing managers' survey, David Bloom of HSBC James Capel said: "Strong growth in demand in the domestic market is no longer able to fully offset the loss of competitiveness resulting from sterling's appreciation."

The pound weakened sharply yesterday, although the downward lurch appeared to have been exaggerated in very thin trading conditions. Sterling's effective index against a basket of currencies closed at 95.0 compared with 96.1 on Tuesday, the previous trading session.

Dealers attributed the pound's slide to falls in British stock and bond markets rather than directly to the purchasing managers' report.

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Jurek Piasecki plans a bigger chain this year after ending his takeover pursuit

Goldsmiths sparkles at Christmas

JUREK PIASECKI, chairman and chief executive of the Goldsmiths jewellery chain, unveiled strong Christmas trading figures yesterday and said he has given up pursuing Signet's Ernest Jones (Sarah Cunningham writes).

He expects to open up to 18 stores this year and hopes to double market share to 6 per cent over the next five years.

In the four weeks to December 28, like-for-like sales were up 9.8 per cent. In the 11 months to the same date they were up 9.4 per cent. Mr Piasecki said December trading started well, then flattened out and had been strong in the three days before Christmas. Sales of diamonds and Gucci watches were particularly good.

Waterstone venture aims for full listing

By Sarah Cunningham

TIM WATERSTONE, the founder of the Waterstone's bookstore chain, hopes to float his new venture, Daisy & Tom children's stores, on AIM in 1998 and then move as soon as possible to a listing on the main exchange.

Work will begin next week on the first Daisy & Tom, a 20,000 sq ft store on the King's Road in London. It is due to open in May, with two further stores — in Manchester and Scotland — also planned for this year. He hopes to open 30 Daisy & Tom outlets in the long term.

The stores, named after his two-year-old daughter and the

son of fellow investor Christopher Thompson of DC Thomson, will sell children's clothes, shoes, books and toys. "They will be very upmarket and elegant and will look absolutely wonderful," Mr Waterstone said.

Mr Waterstone is chairman and chief executive of the company, which is 37 per cent owned by him, 37 per cent owned by DC Thomson and 26 per cent owned by Quesser, the venture capitalists. The flotation on AIM will follow one year's trading with three outlets, Mr Waterstone said.

Child's play, page 27

Hampel Committee extends deadline

By Jason Nisbet



Sir Ronald: awaiting replies

THE Hampel Committee, set up more than a year ago to review the corporate governance guidelines introduced in the Cadbury and Greenbury reports, has extended its timetable for submissions because some of Britain's most influential organisations have missed the December 31 deadline.

Among the bodies given extra time to put the finishing touches to their comments are the Confederation of British Industry and Pirc, the lobby group set up to monitor corporate governance procedures.

The committee, chaired by Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman of ICI, has already received more than 50 replies and is expecting up to 20 more. "We've decided

that December 31 was not an absolute deadline as quite a few people have not put in submissions yet, including some leading bodies," said a committee official.

Pirc is expected to put forward its views next week, with Anne Simpson, a director of Pirc, today adding the finishing touches to the group's submission.

The CBI said it hoped to offer its reply in the next week or so. "It's like being back at school," said a CBI official. "If you give the teacher a good excuse you can get an extension on your homework."

The committee is planning to produce an interim report in the summer and a full report by the end of the year. It does not publish the submissions it has received, but many of the bodies that have given replies have chosen to make them public.

Among the most controversial have

been the view expressed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants that shareholders are not qualified to make a judgment on what is a reasonable pay package, and should not be allowed to vote on the issue. The ICA added that it felt that the rows about bonuses for senior executives "do not, on the face of it, seem to have been fully justified."

Both leading bodies representing institutional investors — the Association of British Insurers and the National Association of Pension Funds — have come out against there being new rules introduced to add to the burden on British companies. "We are arguing against further regulation," said Richard Regan, who chairs the investment committee of the ABI. "Industry needs time to digest the contents of Greenbury and Cadbury."

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OECD warns recovering Japan to tackle deficit

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

JAPAN'S long-awaited economic recovery after the prolonged recession of the early 1990s now seems under way but the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said yesterday that Japan must tackle the huge budget deficit built up because of efforts to stimulate the economy.

The OECD, which was publishing its latest survey of the Japanese economy, said that growth is expected to have totalled 3.5 per cent in 1996, which compares well with growth of less than 1 per cent in 1995. However, growth is expected to fall back to only 1.6 per cent this

year with consumption weakening as temporary tax cuts have ended. In order to maintain the recovery's momentum, the OECD recommends that Japan keep interest rates low. Official interest rates have stood at only 0.5 per cent since September 1995, with market interest rates held slightly below that.

The importance of maintaining loose monetary conditions is even more significant given the OECD's recommendation that Japan now starts to tighten fiscal policy, which has been aggressively stimulative throughout the 1990s when growth failed to materialise.

These efforts to kickstart the economy have led to a widening in Japan's general govern-

ment deficit to nearly 4 per cent of gross domestic product. The combined deficits of central and local government has approached 7 per cent of GDP, one of the largest of any industrialised country, and government debt has jumped to almost 90 per cent of GDP.

The OECD said: "It will therefore be appropriate to strengthen fiscal consolidation over the medium term, as rapidly as the underlying growth of domestic demand permits, in order to prevent government indebtedness from rising continuously." It suggested that spending cuts and possibly tax increases will be needed. If tax rises prove necessary, it recommends a further rise in consumption tax.

It noted that action to cut government borrowing is even more pressing because of the rapid ageing of Japan's population. Despite limits on pension benefits, the OECD forecasts that catering for health and welfare needs will boost government spending to about 40 per cent of GDP by 2000 and to more than 45 per cent by 2025.

The OECD also emphasised the need for a broad and more substantial programme of deregulation if Japan's economy is to grow faster. It noted that "progress so far appears modest, as significant impediments to competition still remain in many areas of the service sector."

Company pensions 14% up on state fund

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAYMENTS from company pension schemes in Britain have risen 6 per cent, making them 14 per cent higher on average than state pensions, new evidence on Britain's pension schemes shows today.

The findings of an independent study of Britain's major pension schemes show that they paid out more than £10 billion in benefits in their most recent financial year.

In its second annual study of

Britain's occupational pension schemes, Incomes Data Services, the independent pay analyst, says that the average annual pension paid out by company pension schemes is now £3,698.

Examining the reports and accounts of more than 100 large occupational pension schemes, IDS says that this is 14 per cent higher than the current single person's full basic state pension.

The total spend on pensions-in-payment by 104 schemes studied was £10,368 billion in their most recent financial year, the IDS study shows. This is a 6.1 per cent rise on comparable figures for the previous scheme year.

The number of people receiving occupational pensions increased from 2.5 million in the previous year's study to 2.8 million now, although the coverage of the survey is a little wider this year.

The research shows "enormous variations" in the average value of pension payouts, largely driven by the pay position of the companies concerned. Higher-paying industries such as banking and insurance tended to pay higher pensions than industries such as engineering, for example.

Service length is another key factor, with organisations containing long-service employees, such as universities, paying high pensions.

The establishment date of schemes is also significant, with comparatively new schemes, such as that at Rover Cars, paying lower benefits than long-established schemes, such as that at Vauxhall.

Five schemes recorded "significant" increases in the number of pensions-in-payment this year. These were the Post Office, with a 47 per cent rise; Granada, 18 per cent; the Environment Agency Active Fund, 17 per cent; Vauxhall, 14 per cent; and ICL, 13 per cent.

At the same time, 19 companies showed a decrease in the number of pensions being paid, including a 25 per cent fall at English China Clay because of a bulk transfer of pensioners out of the scheme, a 7 per cent drop at the Railways Superannuation Fund and a 3 per cent fall in the CMT Mineworkers' scheme — formerly British Coal.

The Universities Staff Superannuation Scheme again paid the highest pension — this year an average £11,998 to its members. The lowest average pension being paid among those studied was £990 a year at the Norwich Union, although this is for a dedicated scheme specifically for part-time workers.

Retirement benefits swell by over 11%

By OLIVER AUGUST

UK pension funds grew by more than 11 per cent in 1996, according to WM Company, which measures the investment performance of more than 75 per cent of the UK pension fund market. Its performance survey shows gains were fuelled by strong equity markets in Britain, America and Europe.

With inflation at around 2 per cent, funds received a real return of 9 per cent on their investments. The historical average over the past ten years is a 7 per cent increase per annum. But 1996 failed to match the dramatic gains achieved in the previous year, when returns soared to 19 per cent after a disappointing 1994.

Peter Warrington, a WM director, said: "It is anything but doom and gloom. UK equities continue to stride forward. Our survey shows that UK equities provided a return of 17 per cent, with the average active manager outperforming the FT-SE all-share index."

The worst equity performer was Japan, with a 21 per cent fall, while America was the best overseas performer, with a 16 per cent increase. Pension funds have recently been taking profits on their equity investments in America and the UK. Mr Warrington said: "The high cash holdings support the widespread belief that the major equity markets, particularly the UK and US, are overvalued. Funds may be waiting for a downturn before returning to buy at lower levels."



Bernard Matthews, who sold his shares at a price close to their recent peak

Matthews sells 1m shares

BERNARD MATTHEWS, chairman of the turkey farming group that carries his name, has raised £1.25 million by selling a million of his shares (Paul Durman writes).

The price he received, 125p, was close to the recent peak of 130p, the highest the shares have been since the stock market crash of 1987. Mr Matthews retains a stake

of 18.5 per cent, keeping his family's holding just above 40 per cent and valuing it at more than £60 million.

Mr Matthews once said that his contribution to society was to change turkey from being solely a Christmas treat, "putting it within the grasp of everybody as an everyday meat". His company now produces about 20 million

turkeys a year, about two-thirds of which are purchased in processed form rather than as whole birds.

The company is expected to make profits this year of about £22 million. It made a good start to the year, overcoming higher feed prices thanks to the BSE scare, which prompted customers to switch from beef to turkey.

Computer software pirates log a bill of £287m

By FRASER NELSON

BRITISH software pirates are costing the industry more than £287 million a year, according to a report which ranks Britain as the world's seventh worst offender for illegally copied computer programs.

A survey commissioned by the Business Software Alliance and the Software Publishers' Association puts the worldwide cost of piracy in 1995 at \$8.4 billion, of which Britain has a 3.4 per cent share.

While Britain is a prominent offender in terms of the overall money lost, only 42 per cent of software used in this country is pirated — a figure significantly below the European average of 62 per cent.

Slovenia has the worst record, with a piracy level of 96 per cent of the software used, while the Swiss emerge as the most honest computer users with a 38 per cent piracy rate.

While the figures for 1996 are still being compiled, a worldwide total of \$9 billion is expected to have been lost last year, with more than £320 million coming from Britain.

The Business Software Alliance said that while Britain had scored much lower than most of its European neighbours, the figure was still too high, given the maturity of the market.

The evolution of Windows-based computers has made software piracy increasingly difficult to police, with technology to copy programs coming as standard issue in most machines. Leading computer programs such as Microsoft Word cost around £220 in the high street, but they can be copied in seconds on to a computer disk costing 80p.

While the software industry mounts frequent attempts to purge piracy, the hardware industry takes a more relaxed attitude. Some argue that a degree of such activity boosts the computer market in general, and is essential to kickstart computer culture in developing countries.

Banks and unions claim strike victory

SCOTTISH banks and Bifu, the banking union, have both claimed victory after yesterday's strike in support of the traditional January 2 holiday. Banks, including the Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale, Royal Bank of Scotland, TSB Scotland and Lloyds Bowmaker, the finance house subsidiary of Lloyds, want workers to adopt the Easter Monday bank holiday from England instead. Peter Burt, chairman of the Committee of Scottish Clearing Bankers, said fewer than 50 out of the total 1,200 Scottish branches did not open.

Bifu said many Scottish town centres had been deserted, demonstrating that the public did not want the service. Sandy Boyle, Bifu's deputy general secretary, said: "They've refused to negotiate with us, and wouldn't listen either to staff or customer. Perhaps now they will listen."

Fokker bid speculation

FOKKER, the collapsed manufacturer of aircraft, could still be rescued by a new partner, according to Dutch press reports. Wickard de Waard, a Dutch entrepreneur, is said to have created a limited liability company called Forward Aircraft to use as a vehicle for a takeover bid. He reportedly wants to continue existing production of Fokker aircraft, which could benefit Shorts, which supplies parts from its base in Belfast. Samsung, of Korea, has said that it is no longer interested in taking over Fokker after months of unsuccessful negotiations. Fokker's receivers declined to comment on bid speculation.

Hays in German deal

HAYS, the business services group, has acquired Dautenbach, a German car parts distributor, for DM68 million. Dautenbach is the leading German spare parts supplier to General Motors, BMW, Mitsubishi, Toyota, Volkswagen and Chrysler. Ronnie Fox, executive chairman of Hays, said: "Dautenbach is a national business with the ability to deliver next day, pre-8am. It has a leading market position and a strong management." Hays is committed to paying a further DM9 million if a certain level of profit is achieved during 1997.

Arcadian hotel deal

ARCADIAN INTERNATIONAL, the hotels and leisure developments group, has acquired Chilton Park Hotel, near Leeds Castle in Kent, for £4.4 million. The 38-bed hotel is set in 22 acres of parkland and has extensive conference facilities. Construction of a further 15 bedrooms is under way. Operating profits for 1996 are expected to be £479,000. Arcadian has granted Homewood Park an option to acquire Hunstrete House, a 25-room hotel near Bath, for £1.86 million. The hotel was bought by Arcadian in 1993 as part of the acquisition of Clippier Hotels.

Cox buys GJW unit

COX Insurance Holdings, the Lloyd's of London agency, has acquired the specialist yacht and cargo business of Groves, John & Westrup (Underwriting) from Sphère Drake for £900,000. GJW has been part of the insurance industry in Liverpool for more than 100 years. It has been underwriting pleasure craft since 1971 and began writing a cargo account in 1990. Premium income generated by GJW, expected to amount to some £10 million in 1997, will be accepted by Lloyd's marine syndicate 590/2591, underwritten by Ian Woolton, one of the seven Cox Insurance-managed syndicates.

Spirax-Sarco buys

SPIRAX-SARCO Engineering is spending £17 million on acquiring Bredel Holdings, a manufacturer of pumps based in The Netherlands, and the associated Bredel distribution business of Wankesha Cherry Burrell in America. The vendor is United Dominion Industries, of Canada. The acquired businesses had net assets of £3.6 million and generated profits of £1.7 million before interest and tax in the 11 months to the end of November 1996. The consideration is subject to an additional payment of £1 million depending on profits to the end of December.

Regionbridge for Allen

ALLEN, the building contracting and civil engineering company, has acquired Regionbridge, a contracting company based in the West Midlands, for a maximum consideration of £1.75 million, of which £960,000 was paid in cash on completion. A further payment of £240,000 is due in March 1997 after agreement of the completion accounts and a final instalment of up to £550,000 due in March 1998, depending on profits. In 1995 Regionbridge earned pre-tax profits of £224,000 on turnover of £7.6 million.

Beverley's loss deepens

PRE-TAX LOSSES of Beverley Group, the manufacturer and supplier of industrial pumps and valves, grew to £531,000, from £462,000, in the half year to August 31 on turnover down to £1.15 million, from £1.23 million. The loss per share was 0.27p (0.56p loss). There is again no dividend. Beverley said that the losses reflected the continuing difficult trading conditions as the group emerges from a company voluntary arrangement.

Irish economy is 'set to grow 5%'

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

THE Republic of Ireland's economic boom is set to continue this year with real GNP growth of 5 per cent, according to the country's independent economics institute.

The Quarterly Economic Review from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) estimates that real GNP growth in 1996 was around 5.4 per cent, after growth in excess of 7 per cent for 1995 and 1994. The ESRI says that a deceleration of growth in domestic demand in 1997 will be offset by rapid expansion in export volumes.

Inflation, which was running at 1.6 per cent in 1996, should stay under control at around two per cent in 1997, says the review. It also forecasts continued strengthening of public finances, with a current budget surplus and an Exchequer borrowing requirement at the same level as last year.

Such is the performance of the Irish economy over the past four years that the ESRI concedes there have been questions about the figures' accuracy. It concludes that although no estimate of economic progress can be definitive, "the trends in the various major elements of the economy fit together in a generally coherent manner".

Ireland's performance is attributed to, among other matters, direct foreign investment in fast-growing industries and the availability of a qualified labour force.

Dispute bad for Bupa's health

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

BUPA, the British private healthcare group, yesterday conceded that its operations in the Irish Republic have been harmed by a dispute with the Irish Government about its insurance packages.

The dispute, which began in November after Bupa unveiled its packages for the Irish market, escalated yesterday with the Irish Minister of Health apparently threatening legal action if Bupa does not modify its schemes. Bupa replied that its products comply fully with Irish and European law. A spokeswoman for the group said that although it is happy to co-operate with the Government, its insurance schemes will not be changed.

The controversy concerns Bupa's cash plans, under which clients can upgrade hospital accommodation or take a cash bonus. The plans, unlike Bupa's basic health package, are age weighted.

Michael Noonan, Health Minister, said the plans contravene the Health Insurance Act requirement that schemes be offered to everyone at the same price, regardless of age. Bupa says the cash plans are an optional extra to the basic plan.

Bupa yesterday said that "several thousand people" had bought its schemes, but admitted that the dispute was harming business. It is also embarrassing a government pledged to liberalising the private healthcare market.

Suspension clouds Butte future

By JASON NISSE

THE inglorious stock market career of Butte Mining — despite its name it gave up mining three years ago — is in danger of coming to an end a few months short of its tenth anniversary after its shares were suspended yesterday.

Butte, whose chairman, David Lloyd-Jacob, admits that it only exists as a vehicle for legal actions, said the suspension came because it could not publish its accounts for either of the last two years as it is in talks about outstanding litigation.

Butte has apparently offered to drop one action, a £100 million writ against Ernst & Young, its former auditors, and

is in talks to settle another against three subsidiaries of Simon Engineering. The actions relate to the group's former interests in mining in Montana, US.

However, the process has been held up because a winding-up petition has been issued against the company. This action is believed to have come from the holders of some of Butte's preference shares.

Butte's ordinary shares were floated at 100p in 1987 but yesterday stood at 4p, valuing the company at £1.96 million. "Plucky little Butte" sold out of mining in 1993, has been involved in a three-year Serious Fraud Office inquiry, massive legal actions, and a spat with the Financial Reporting Review Panel

(FRRP) that has contributed to this latest problem. Last October, Butte was admonished by the FRRP, which threatened to take it to court for booking a £1 million profit on shares it received in an obscure Canadian mining company so turning a £339,000 loss for the year to June 30, 1995 into a £628,000 profit.

Butte has not been able to reissue its accounts for that year, or indeed publish accounts for the year to June 30, 1996, claiming in a statement that they have been held up by negotiations on "its most significant lawsuits". The Exchange insists that companies publish accounts within six months of their year-end and so suspended Butte shares.

Country	Index	Change	Country	Index	Change
Australia	3,046	+10	Spain	1,085	+10
Canada	6,040	+10	Sweden	1,085	+10
France	12,728	+10	Switzerland	1,085	+10
Germany	5,078	+10	Taiwan	1,085	+10
Italy	2,411	+10	USA	1,085	+10
Japan	10,823	+10			
Netherlands	2,411	+10			
Portugal	1,085	+10			
South Africa	1,085	+10			
UK	1,085	+10			

Notes for special dividend payments only as supplied by Reuters. All figures are in local currency. All figures are in local currency.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
MR REGISTRAR BUCKLEY

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTRYWIDE LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 18th December 1996 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £10,000,000 to £1,000,000, the Minute approved by the Court showing the reduction of the capital of the said company as altered the several particulars contained in the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 18th December 1996.

Dated the 3rd day of January, 1997.
LIVKATERS & HAINES (PVT.)
Barristers at Law,
55-57 Graham Street,
London EC2V 7JA
Solicitors for the above-named Company

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مكتبة الأصل

Some modest predictions for 1997 □ Stock-pickers get it right for once □ SFA's rules stiffer than the Met's

Through a glass, darkly

FINANCIAL forecasting is for mugs. Any pundit who claims to know which way the stock market is going, the outlook for gilts, for interest rates and house prices, is no more reliable than the average racing tipster — less so, because the racing world is so riddled with insider dealing that there is a fair chance the tipster got it straight from the jockey.

Most of last year's forecasts from the professionals, the equity analysts whose job it is to second-guess the stock market, for 1996, look pretty sick. Several did so badly that the brokers concerned have refused to make public their stance for 1997 — with experience comes wisdom. They include the securities house that forecast a plunge in the FTSE-100 index to 2,800 last year, against the rise of 11 per cent to above 4,100 that took place in the real world.

Ho hum. One assumes this was not reflected in their year-end bonuses, and indeed City fund managers have protected themselves rather well once again this year. It is an odd but provable fact that stock markets always rise in December, and indeed the index rose by 1.5 per cent last month, a higher than average monthly rise even for last year, in very thin trading.

Another fact is that fund managers' bonuses tend to be based on year-end to year-end

comparisons of the value of the funds they look after, so yesterday's correction will have had little effect on their pay. Make of it all what you will.

So forecasts should be restricted to areas where specialist knowledge puts the pundit ahead of the pack. A degree of wish-fulfilment is allowed — will teenagers finally tire of tipping fruit-flavoured industrial alcohol down their necks? Will Ken and Eddie just once agree on interest rates? Will we at last see the disappearance of that tiresome phrase "feel-good factor"?

Here are Pennington's predictions for 1997: □ At least one quoted football club will run into serious financial difficulties. The share prices of almost all the others, save for a couple of blue chips such as Manchester United, will crumble. Watch out for the rush of investors to the turnstiles.

□ Someone will pay a silly price for a chain of restaurants, citing clear industrial logic. The bidder will be a) Barclay's Bank b) British Steel c) AN Other. □ British Gas will finally admit that its demerger plans, to be

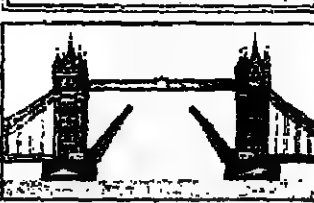
completed by the end of next month according to the timetable, must be delayed through lack of management time. The company will be tempted to blame the harsh winter.

□ Sears will finally get out of shoe retailing, four decades after Sir Charles Clegg went in. Alternatively, Liam Strong, its chief executive, will be scanning the Jobs Vacant ads. These predictions are not mutually exclusive.

□ There will at last be a political outcry over the selling of chunks of the electricity distribution system to Americans no one has ever heard of before. Ian Lang, president of the board of trade, will shock the market by ignoring all previous precedent.

□ Elsewhere, Mr Lang will ignore precedent and shock the market. And again, just for luck, □ Stagecoach will bid for a bus company, and be referred to the Monopolies Commission. And again. And again. □ There will be little progress in the pensions mis-selling scandal, heading for its fourth year since the problem was unearthed by the Securities and Investments Board. Only a tiny proportion of

PENNINGTON



those affected have so far had their claims settled. This year, that figure will double.

□ The unit trust industry will embark on a five-year decline, to be supplanted by the new Open-Ended Investment Companies (OEICs) which can be created from next Monday. By the time unit trusts are no more, the OEICs will have started their five-year decline, supplanted by something with an even more horrible name.

□ Motor insurance rates will have to rise, allowing the decent firms to make a profit again at the expense of those who, at present, charge you the value of your car to insure it and add the cost of any claims made to next year's premiums.

□ Which? magazine will become involved in a pension product, in the wake of the damning Which? report into all the others. This follows last year's damning report into credit cards, coinciding with the Which? card.

□ A building society float will go sour, after squabbles over bonuses/lost or burnt share certificates/postal problems. Computers will get the blame.

□ One of the big accountants will buy a medium-sized firm of solicitors, so offering clients one-stop shopping. Rates will not fall.

□ Tiny Rowland will attend the Lloyds annual meeting. He will not propose the vote of thanks to the management.

□ A big/high-profile AIM company will go bust. Alternatively, an AIM company will finally graduate to a full listing. These forecasts are not mutually exclusive, but expect the first some time before the second.

This last is the only racing certainty — but it takes true punditry to spot which company. A Happy New Year to all.

Stock-pickers win in year of the dog

BY contrast with the equity strategists, pension fund investment managers earned their keep in 1996, thanks to their long-term fondness for London equities. More surprising, their efforts in picking British shares actually beat the FTSE 100 index, according to figures from the WM Company.

Funds that merely track share indices have become fashionable because the expense of serious stock picking is too often wasted — for why, see above. In 1996, however, all those hours feeding ratios into the laptop, all those lunches ruined by having to stay awake through another company presentation, all those arduous trips to research Diversified Megacorp's Bermuda acquisition, paid off.

Not that fund managers are actually much better pickers of

winners than Whitehall used to be. But they are better than Whitehall, or indices or computers, or astrologers for that matter, at spotting a sure loser.

In yesteryear, index funds invested in Maxwell in spite of misgivings. In 1996 they were stuck in big companies such as British Gas, Hanson, BTR and Sears that missed the buoyant year enjoyed by most. Rarely have so many top companies let the side down as in the City's Year of the Dog.

Many — though not all — actively managed funds avoided such stummers, as did the average smaller fund for similar reasons. In the expected tougher climate of 1997, fund members will hope stock pickers meet the challenge again. This will require, however, an equally generous distribution of complete dogs.

A policeman's lot

□ A COUPLE of years ago a broker was caught diddling British Rail by using his girlfriend's pass. He lost his Securities and Futures Authority registration, and so his job and livelihood. Those are the rules — no criminal convictions of any kind. Now a few hundred policemen, no less, have been caught playing fast and loose on the London Tube. Their penalty? Loss of their free travel passes.

GEC's Satchwell is sold to Siebe for £80m

BY PAUL DURMAN

GEC yesterday sold its first business since George Simpson, its new chief executive, outlined the group's disposal plans last month.

Satchwell Controls, of Slough, which makes and installs the temperature systems for large buildings, is being sold to Siebe, the diversified engineering group, for £80 million, including debt.

Siebe intends to make Satchwell the European flagship for its own building

systems business, which currently includes Siebe Environmental Controls in the UK and Siebe Air in Switzerland and The Netherlands.

A Siebe spokesman said the group has annual sales of about £200 million in this area, but most of these are in America. Satchwell, part of GEC since 1968, is the UK market leader.

Announcing half-year results last month, Mr Simpson said he intended to sell the

businesses that do not belong in GEC, which is made up of more than 150 separate companies.

Malcolm Bates, GEC's deputy managing director, said yesterday that Satchwell was "out on its own" and provided few spin-off benefits for the group's main interests in defence electronics, power systems and telecommunications. Mr Bates said GEC had always had in its mind to sell Satchwell, but this had not been a priority because the company had done well and not caused any problems.

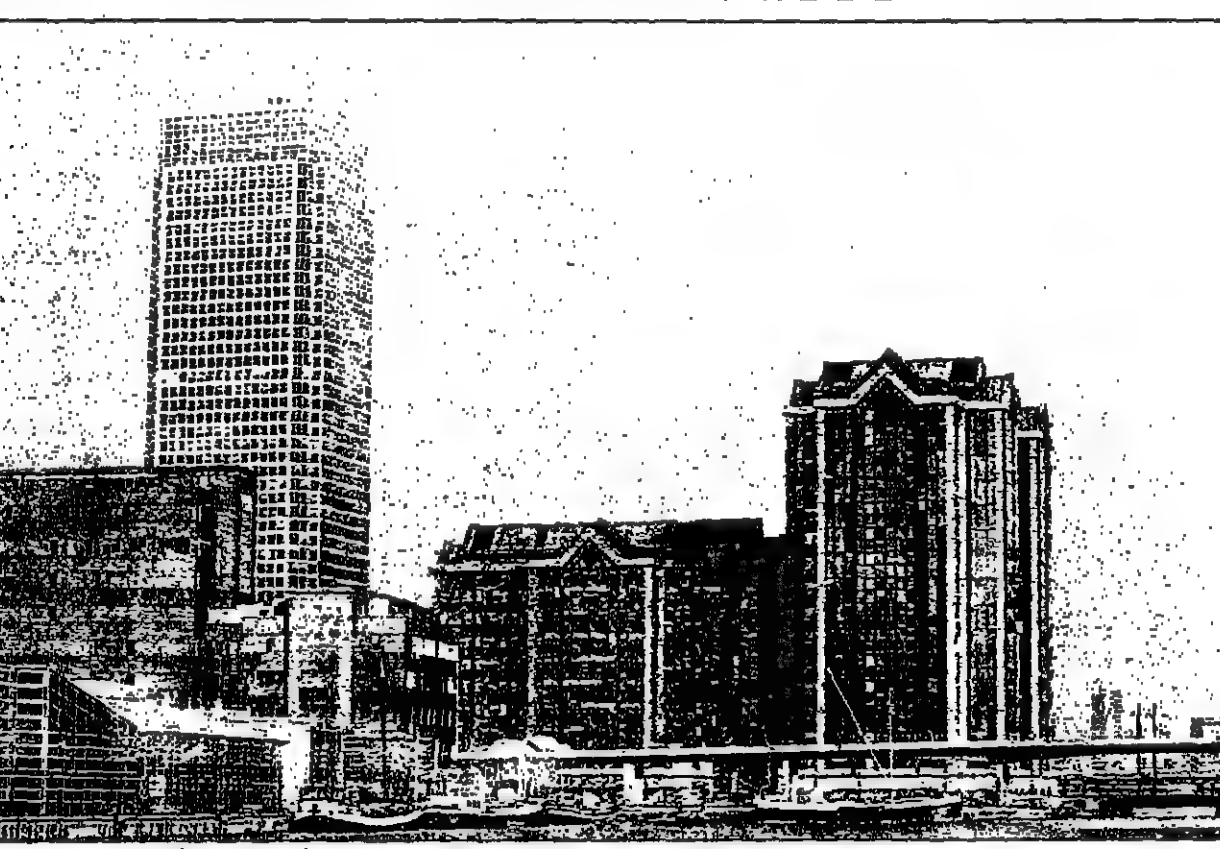
Satchwell delivered record sales and profits last year, making £49 million on turnover of £60.3 million. It had net assets of £9.4 million at March 31 and employs more than 1,000 people.

Siebe said it intended to retain the "very well-known" Satchwell name. It would not comment on the possibility of job losses, but said it was its policy to integrate and build up its acquisitions; not to cut costs for a quick profit. Dr George Sarny, president of Siebe Control Systems, said the new grouping would provide Siebe with a significant new platform for future growth.

GEC is expected to make a series of further disposals this year as Mr Simpson reshapes the business assembled by Lord Weinstock, his predecessor. One leading candidate for disposal is thought to be the 50 per cent stake in the consumer goods division, which includes Creta cookers and Hotpoint washing machines.

Other possible disposals include the wire and cable operations, the semi-conductor and components companies, the office equipment interests and the medical systems business.

Times, page 26



The IRA Docklands bomb forced Guardian Media to switch to alternative printers, which cost £14.4 million

Guardian Media in the red

GUARDIAN Media Group, publishers of *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, was pushed into the red by costs arising from the IRA Docklands bombing last year (see page 26).

The blast damaged the group's main printing plant near South Quay, forcing a switch to alternative printers that cost £14.4 million.

Interim results show a £17.9 million profit before exceptional items — up more than 40 per cent. But overall, a £12.7 million pre-tax profit turned into a £1.84 million pre-tax loss for the six months to September 29. Harry Roche, chairman, said the strong operating performance had been achieved despite a 24 per cent rise in newsprint prices, costing an extra £5.5 million.

The group, publisher also of the *Manchester Evening News*, had £154.3 million net assets including cash of £81.6 million and remains financially strong, Mr Roche said.

Haemocell shareholders lose heart over rights

BY PAUL DURMAN

MOST of the long-suffering investors in Haemocell, the blood filtration system company, have turned their backs on the company's £2 million rescue share issue.

Haemocell said yesterday that holders of just over 16 per cent of its shares are taking up their entitlements in the recent placing and open offer. The rest of the 73.5 million shares from the 13-for-five offer have been placed with institutional

and other investors. New backers include Channel Hotels & Properties, controlled by David Kirsh, which will have a stake of about 25 per cent.

The latest shares were issued at 3p, a far cry from the 150p October 1992 rights issue. Hopes for Haemocell's System 850, which allows doctors to use patients' own blood for transfusions, carried the shares to a 22p peak in February 1993.

The decline in the company's fortunes stemmed initially from the collapse of its distribution deal with Stryker Corporation of the US. Subsequent sales have been insufficient to cover Haemocell's costs. Haemocell hopes to reduce its reliance on System 850 by distributing products for a French company, but has been held back by lack of resources. Haemocell expects share dealings on AIM to reopen on Monday.

Deadline set for Triplex bid

Triplex Lloyd has given William Cook's shareholders two more weeks to accept its hostile bid for the company, after securing 5.83 per cent of its rival's shares by the second deadline.

Triplex needs to win over Cook's five largest shareholders to secure victory. The decisive move in the battle is expected to be made when PDM, the fund manager, chooses which of the specialist engineers to back. It controls 19.7 per cent of William Cook's shares and 11.9 per cent of Triplex's.

Trinity sells

Trinity International Holdings, the newspaper publisher, has withdrawn from Canada after selling its titles in the country to Black Press, a Canadian media company, for C\$58 million (£24.7 million). Trinity said the money raised would be used to cut gearing, which was 59 per cent at the last count. Its shares rose 1p to 461½p.

Board move

Selfcare, the American biomedical company that holds 28.89 per cent of Environmed, a diagnostics company, has set out its proposals to remove the company's board. It has called an extraordinary meeting for January 17. Environmed incurred losses of £8.2 million before tax in the last financial year and its shares have fallen to 24p from 112p in 1995.

Double delight for Vodafone

BY OLIVER AUGUST

VODAFONE, the mobile phone group, doubled the number of overseas subscribers and increased its UK customer base by 20 per cent during the last 12 months.

In the last quarter, new overseas subscribers, outstripped the UK numbers for the first time. Some 146,000 Britons contacted their mobile phones during the Christmas period, compared with 148,000 abroad. Vodafone now has almost a million overseas customers and 2.8 million in the UK, 1.22 million of whom use the digital network.

Chris Gent, chief executive, said: "There was a strong all-round performance from Vodafone in 1996. The highlight of the year in the UK was the strong growth in our digital network, where the subscriber base increased by 820,000, over 205 per cent, with new connections being supported by a very successful policy of migrating existing customers

from the analogue to the digital network.

"Our overseas businesses collectively produced an exceptional performance and continue to go from strength to strength."

The company said there had been particularly strong performances in France, Greece and South Africa.

Times, page 26



Gent: "strong growth"

Broker fined £15,000 by Lloyd's

A LLOYD'S of London broker has been fined £15,000 and ordered to pay £1,000 in costs, for transferring funds in breach of Lloyd's bylaws (see page 26).

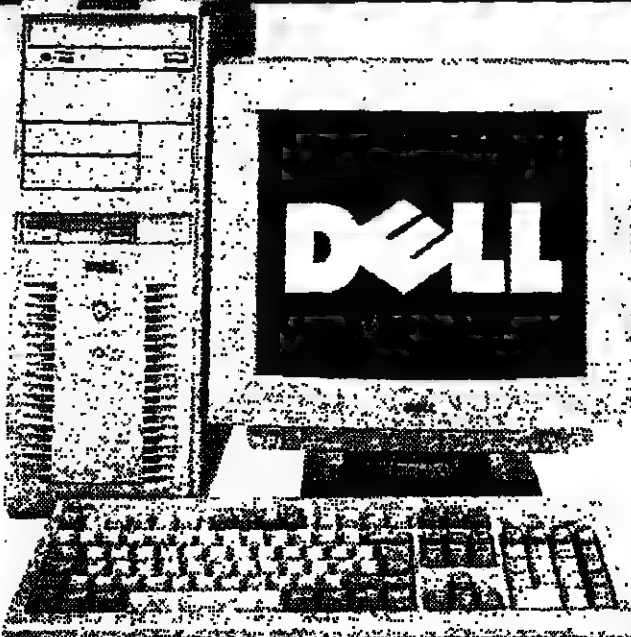
McCall International admitted two charges of misconduct arising from the transfers, but said that it took independent accounting advice. The fine is the biggest yet imposed by Lloyd's, which has toughened its standards, bringing in fixed-penalty fines and requiring that disciplinary actions be made public.

The McCall action centres on transfers in 1993 and 1994. The first case involved £1.5 million pooled in an insurance broking account. Some £400,000 was transferred to another account within the McCall group for a purpose not permitted under Lloyd's bylaws. A similar offence in-

volved £425,000. David Gittings, director of Lloyd's regulatory division, said that it was accepted that McCall had acted in good faith and had not tried to hide the transfers. It had received independent accounting advice. No creditors had suffered loss.

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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Salter makes his move

A NEW YEAR and a new office for Dean Salter. The former joint managing director of Watnoughs spent his first day as chief executive of the printing group lugging heavy packing boxes along the company's corridors in Manchester Square.

As one of the perks of his promotion, Salter is swapping his cramped corner of the London HQ for the much larger office of his predecessor, Patrick Walker, who is expected to spend at least three days a week in London as Watnoughs's non-executive chairman.

"We decided to keep our own desks, otherwise it would have meant emptying all the drawers," chuckles Salter.

Snakes alive

ST PATRICK might claim to have banished snakes from Ireland, but Tony Axon knows otherwise. Rumouring inside the office photocopies, trying to establish why it wasn't working, the media director at McCann Erickson, the Belfast advertising agency, came face to face with a black and yellow serpent. "I shot back about 10 feet," he recalls. "We later discovered it had escaped from City Reptiles on the ground floor and had climbed three sets of stairs to take up residence in my copy." Not bad for an American grass snake.

AMONG SBC Warburg's list of ten UK stocks that it expects to outperform during 1997 — including British Aerospace, British Land, BT, Caradon, Diageo, Independent Television, RSCG, Rolls-Royce, Sun, Albion, and Sainsbury — is Mercury Asset Management. Curiously, until 1995 Warburg owned 75 per cent of MAM. Would that were still the case!



"He has gone right off cold turkey"

Name pane

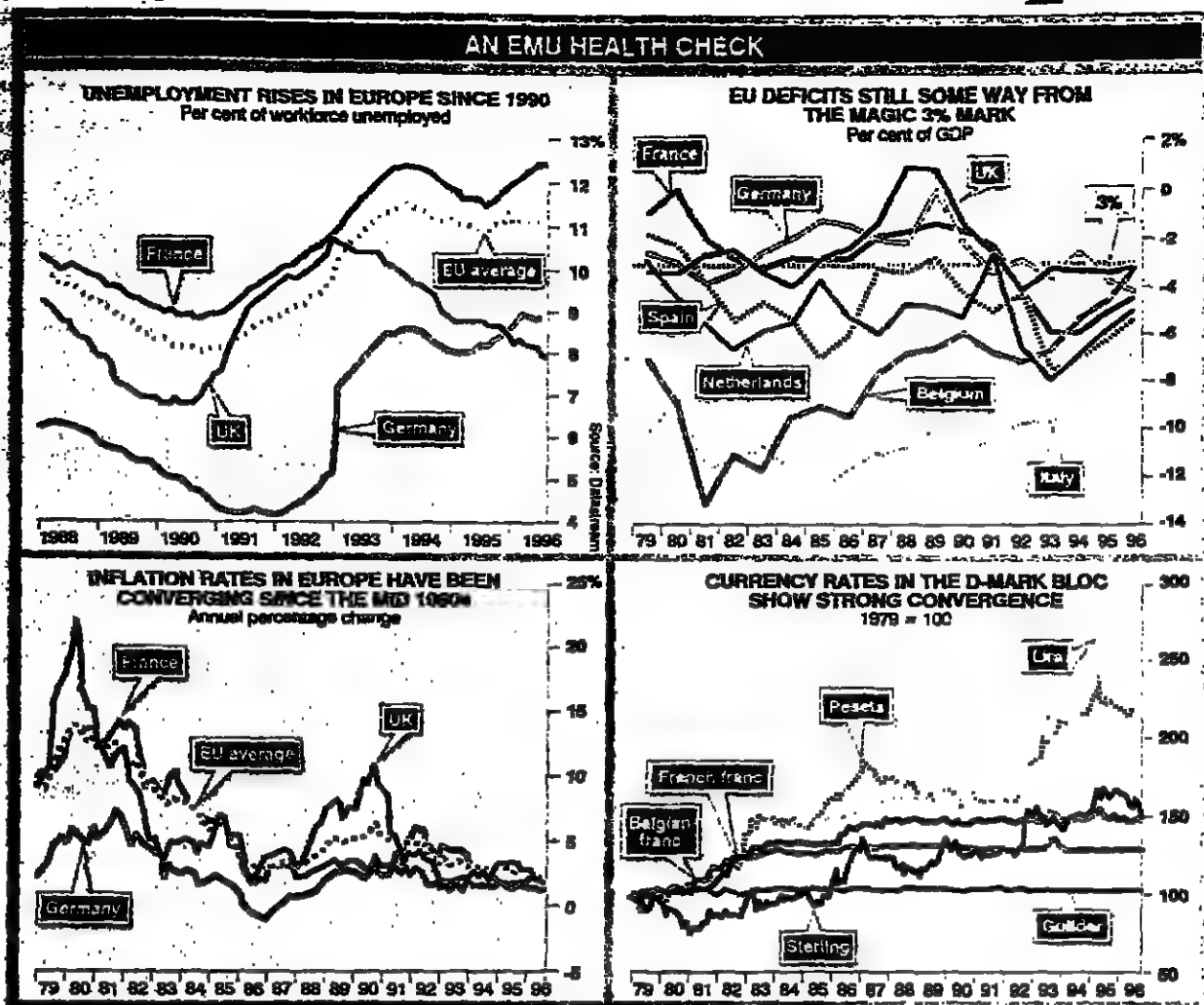
AN OFFICE makeover for Allied Trust Bank, which will henceforth be known as Investec Bank. The huge slab of glass in the foyer of the bank's offices in the Dorchester Hotel, London is about to be shown the back door because the inscriptions on the glass signpost no longer make any sense. Since Clive Securities came on board last March, Integro changed its name to Insinger and now Allied Trust Bank (known as Allied Arab Bank until 1989) has been rechristened. Whether the almighty pane will end its days as an ultra modern coffee table or at the local bottle bank has yet to be decided.

Dressing down

STEER clear of Mansion House tomorrow, when 600 children will gather there for the Lord Mayor's annual fancy dress party. Introduced in the last century as a late Christmas celebration for London's underprivileged, the shindig has changed much over the years. These days, guests are more likely to include the children and grandchildren of leaders of London Boroughs, staff at Mansion House and a handful of MPs. Good news is, however, that Roger Cork will not be wearing fancy dress. Keeping his Mayoral robes safely away from the mess of the party, he will be wearing multi.

Seeking an EMU escape route

Progress on a single currency is faltering as Europe hits Maastricht buffers



There were to be vindicated before the election, leaving both parties free to fight on issues that are less likely to provoke embarrassing dissension.

Europe has rarely offered such convenience to British politicians and the blinding vision on the road to Brussels will probably not happen soon enough to help Messrs Major and Blair. But, nevertheless, some grim economic truths are beginning to dawn on even Europe's most fanatical single currency prophets. Since the Maastricht treaty was signed in an atmosphere of overwhelming confidence, Europe's economies have quite simply failed to deliver. The treaty's convergence criteria and the artificially tight deadline of 1999 are conspiring to make things worse.

David Marsh of Robert Fleming sums up a renewed sense of pessimism in Europe: "A little like Versailles and Weimar, Maastricht appears destined for permanent association with a grand European design that started in hope and petered out in ignominy." In his paper *Maastricht five years on: What future for Europe?*, he goes on to provide a succinct summary of the trail of economic destruction in Europe. He notes that annual

average growth in the European Union fell to 1.4 per cent in 1991-95, compared with 3.3 per cent in 1986-90 and 1.5 per cent in 1981-85, the years when economic stagnation spawned the phrase Euroclerosis. Europe's fiscal position has deteriorated abysmally since the late 1980s. The annual average government borrowing requirement rose to 5.3 per cent in 1991-95, from 3.4 per cent in 1986-90. Since 1990, EU public sector debt has risen by \$2,000 billion to 71 per cent of gross

domestic product in 1995, from 55 per cent in 1990 and 38 per cent in 1980.

Defenders of Europe's economic record would argue that lower EU inflation — down to an average 3.9 per cent in 1991-95 against 4.9 per cent in 1986-90 — is still an achievement to be treasured but there are many, including Mr Marsh, who believe that inflation would have fallen even without the drive towards monetary union.

This year, growth in the EU is thought likely to rise to

around 2 per cent, against 1.6 per cent in 1996, but this will not be enough to justify the European Commission's optimistic boast that 12 out of the EU's 15 members will cut their deficits to 3 per cent or less of GDP this year, the statistical test year for membership of EMU. The much lower debt criteria — limiting public debt to 60 per cent of GDP — is also going to cause a lot of grief. Countries such as Germany, Austria, Spain, Finland and Sweden have seen their debts

pass through the 60 per cent level and are still rising. Slow growth means even higher unemployment, more social spending, reduced tax revenues, even more stubborn debt piles and deficits, leading to even more politically unpopular spending cuts and tax increases. The French electorate as represented by the L'Express poll seem resigned to swallowing more nasty medicine but their political leaders are beginning to worry about the social and political damage wrought by mass

least. If British politicians seem more sensitive than many of their European counterparts to voters' scepticism on the single currency, it is only because the election is imminent. But Germany's politicians face an election in October 1998. If one wants to conjure up a flavour of the democratic will they might be up against it, it is worth noting that in June of that year, there will be ceremonies all over Germany celebrating the 50th anniversary of the mark, the precious token of post-war stability and achievement.

It is more than likely that the proportion of ordinary Germans opposed to giving up the mark will have risen since the Allensbach poll last May. Many will not be best pleased with all the outrageous accounting fiddles being nodded through by the European Commission as it colludes with countries trying to meet the Maastricht criteria. Even less acceptable is the sight of President Chirac outgunning Chancellor Kohl on the stability pact at the Dublin summit.

All this makes the wait-and-see position of the British Conservative and Labour parties look eminently sensible and reinforces the impression that, however eagerly continental Euro-enthusiasts await a Blair government for a more positive British approach to EMU, they are likely to be disappointed — even if Labour wins.

Labour has made it clear that it wants proof that the single currency would be good for Britain economically. The accumulating evidence points the other way — at the very least on the 1999 timetable, which is wreaking such damage. Politically, EMU is not likely to be the subject closest to Mr Blair's heart in the early days of his administration. He is already committed to referenda on Scottish and Welsh devolution and current polls suggest that a referendum on Europe would come up with a no vote anyway. And amid all the furor about Conservative splits over Europe, it should be remembered that Labour has a considerable band of its own rebels who, with an election win under their belts, would not hesitate to voice their views. Even with a reasonable majority, Mr Blair is unlikely to want to annoy them with so much other pressing business to pursue.

Britain's non-participation could provide Germany with one excuse for delay, a spring assault on the Italian lira another. Both would allow Bonn to divert the blame for postponing EMU to two tried and tested European scapegoats: Britain and Anglo-Saxon speculators.

6 Since Maastricht Europe's economies have failed to deliver

Waterstone aims to prove that success is child's play



Tim Waterstone has high hopes for his new chain

aspiring to offer the same sort of clothes sold by Sophie Mirman at her two London childrenswear stores, Trotters. Mr Waterstone thinks her clothes are "wonderful", but the suggestion that the two 80s retail stars could work together is greeted with a guffaw. "There wouldn't be room for our two egos," he says.

The eventual Daisy & Tom stores will all be big and will have a few features in common. Each will have a working carousel, a four-face clock in the centre of the book department, giant rocking horses and toys displayed in a huge toy cupboard. His favourite toy display is at the Chicago branch of FAO Schwarz. He says: "It is really magnificently

done, but I'll be disappointed if we are not better."

Since selling the bookshops, Mr Waterstone has concentrated on writing novels. He has published three so far and recently signed a contract to write another six. Despite this, the 56-year-old is raring to get back into retailing. "I love starting things up," he says, "and I'm very excited by the reaction we've already had."

The company is negotiating for sites in Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh and hopes to have at least three branches opening next year. Mr Waterstone thinks there are opportunities to open up to 30 branches all over the UK and in Ireland, and expects more London stores, in places like Covent

Garden, Islington and Kingston. He also likes the idea of opening abroad. "It is perfect for Europe. Paris would be a knockout," he reckons.

As the father of eight, from three marriages, Mr Waterstone has a store of knowledge about children. He also has a special knowledge of children's books, but his worry when the Daisy & Tom concept first came to him, late in 1995, was that he would not be able to find the right people to handle the other departments. He has spent much of the last year hiring key staff, including Marian Hill, Harrods' childrenswear buyer of 20 years.

Considering that work is only now about to begin on the first Daisy & Tom branch, Mr Waterstone and his partners — DC Thomson and Quaker — already have a very clear idea of what they want to do with the company. One year after the first three branches have begun trading, they want it to float on AIM. Then, as soon as possible, they want to move the company on to the main exchange. Mr Waterstone will remain both chief executive and chairman until the company is on the main exchange.

Mr Waterstone says he is thoroughly confident that this is the right time to start up Daisy & Tom. He had a great 80s, founding Waterstone's in 1982 and nursing it through expansion, deep recession and sale. But now, he says, "feels better than the 80s, when it was all so debt driven. This does not feel like a bubble about to burst."

SARAH CUNNINGHAM



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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

BUSINESS LETTERS

Hasten relief for names

From Sir Eric Yarrow
Sir, Many resigned Lloyd's names paid their finality bill in September, with varying degrees of difficulty and in some cases, involving the sale of shares, with subsequent capital gains liability or having to obtain a bank loan incurring interest charges.

There is now a further burden in that it seems a refund of tax from the Inland Revenue, in some cases a considerable amount, will not be received until the spring of 1997 or possibly even later.

Surely in the circumstances, a determined effort should be made by all concerned to reduce this time scale.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC YARROW,
Cloak, Kilmacol, Renfrewshire.

Boeing merger a gift for UK

From Mr Dick Winchester
Sir, The merger between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas (*The Times*, December 16) reduces competition in the aircraft industry and represents an enormous opportunity for the UK and Europe to step in and grab a much larger chunk of the market.

Accordingly, I look forward to reading that, just as their American counterparts would, UK financial institutions are holding talks to determine how they can work with industry and government in making the best of this wonderful Christmas present. Strange, I've just seen a 400-seater pink pig go over at 35,000 feet!

Yours faithfully,
DICK WINCHESTER,
The Old Schoolhouse, Old Rayne, Aberdeenshire.

Accounting 'error'

From Mr Francis J. Bergin
Sir, The news (*The Times*, Accountancy, December 5) that the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants is setting up yet another institute is profoundly depressing. Surely what is needed is a reduction in the number of chartered and non-chartered bodies, not the creation of an additional one.

This proposal also seems to run counter to all the discussions on integration over the past 30 years.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS J. BERGIN,
Elstree House, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.

Ryanair scheduled for market take-off on route to Europe

Executives at Ryanair, the independent Irish airline, take their company motto very seriously. A recent telephone request to speak to Michael O'Leary, Ryanair's chief executive, at company headquarters in Dublin airport was greeted with a nervous giggle and a surprising explanation. "Oh, he's not around here. He's probably down with the rest of them loading the luggage," said a secretary. "There's nothing much going on in administration and the rest of them are off on their feet so they all go down to help out."

Although Mr O'Leary and his senior colleagues spent Christmas tuning up their muscles on the luggage ramps, the new year will see them back in serious executive mode to prepare for one of the

most challenging periods of their airline's turbulent 11-year history.

It is believed that Ryanair is preparing to float on the Dublin Stock Exchange within months. Although the company refuses to comment, market analysts say that the airline has been in discussions with exchange officials, since last September.

The company, which claims to have pioneered the low-fares/no-frills approach to flying in Europe, has shaken the industry to its foundations in Ireland. Set up by Tony Ryan, an entrepreneur, in 1985, the airline attracted instant applause from travellers who had long complained about the high prices charged by Aer Lingus, a state-owned carrier. Initially Ryanair concentrated on one of the busiest routes in

Eileen McCabe follows the flightpath of Ireland's successful independent airline

Europe — Dublin to London — and gradually muscled in on the Dublin to Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow routes. But despite its popularity with the public, Ryanair hit serious turbulence in 1990 and was forced to carry out an extensive restructuring, including redundancies and route reductions.

Much to Aer Lingus's dismay, Ryanair re-emerged with its old agenda intact. The company continued to embarrass Aer Lingus by undercutting even its most discounted fares and launched regular broadsides against the

fees charged by Aer Lingus, the state-owned controller of Ireland's airports.

The financial turnaround has been impressive. After a loss for the year to December 1990 of almost £12 million (£6.9 million), Ryanair posted a profit of £1,200,000 in 1991. Over the following three years the profits gradually increased, and for the 15 months to March 1995, Ryanair made profits of almost £15 million.

From a high of 13 routes in 1990, Ryanair cut back to five in 1992. Since then it has steadily built back up and by

last year once again boasted a network of 13 routes. They include flights from Dublin to Stansted, Gatwick, Luton, Cardiff and Glasgow.

According to Ryanair, passenger numbers have jumped from 726,000 in 1990 to three million last year. The company claims to have captured a 37 per cent share of the Dublin to London route and 52 per cent of the Dublin to provincial UK routes.

Ryanair has now set its sights on the wider European market. Recently it announced the purchase of six Boeing 737 aircraft from Lufthansa for US\$60 million to service a series of new low-fare services from Stansted to several European cities, including Paris and Brussels. The company has also warned the airport authority and the Irish public

that if Aer Lingus does not reduce its passenger charges from about £125 per person to close to the Stansted level of £100, then Dublin will not figure in Ryanair's expansion plans.

And those may not stop at Europe, if the recent acquisition of a 20 per cent stake in Ryanair by David Bonderman, an American businessman, is anything to go by. Mr Bonderman, who runs the Texas Pacific Group investment company, was a key player in the turnaround of both Continental and America West airlines. His track record in the US — and the fact that in November Mr Ryan stepped aside as chairman in the American's favour — tend to indicate that a flotation on the Dublin exchange may happen sooner rather than later.

Richard Thomson on the US investment dilemma

Question of values on Wall Street

A 101-point fall on the final day of trading on Wall Street in 1996 brought to an uncertain end a record-setting year for equities in America, making it even more difficult to forecast the likely outcome for 1997.

Bullish analysts and investors who insist that the way is still up easily outnumber the bears who claim that shares are heading for a fall which could, at worst, be catastrophic. A year ago, however, the bears were more numerous and turned out to be totally wrong. This time, will it be the bulls who are proved wrong?

The bullish argument is fairly simple: the conditions that sent the market up by more than 25 per cent in 1996 will not change radically in 1997. Inflation will stay low at around 3.5 per cent, as will interest rates, helped by the recent steep fall in the US budget deficit. Even if interest rates did start to rise, it would not have a significant impact on inflation during 1997. Corporate profits, meanwhile, will continue to rise as companies benefit from low interest rates and moves towards greater efficiency. Inflation-adjusted price earnings ratios are right in line historically with the current inflation level, so the market is not overvalued.

Abby Joseph Cohen, market strategist at Goldman Sachs, is typical of the bulls, seeing further growth but at a slightly slower pace. "I am still bullish,



Wall Street saw out a record-setting year with a 101-point fall, making it even more difficult to chart 1997

but I'm not as exuberantly or ebulliently bullish as in the past. There are still good value stocks to buy." Her favourite choices are small capital and technology stocks.

In the other camp stands a select but influential band of analysts whose hair stands on end when they contemplate current market valuations. To them, all traditional methods

of valuing stocks show the market is way beyond its historical norms. The dividend yields on S&P 500 shares, for instance — one of the standard US methods of valuing the market — is at its lowest level on record, indicating that shares are grossly overvalued.

To some extent, this is an argument about which value

measures to use. What is striking about the bullish side, however, is a willingness to jettison the measures that used to be considered sacrosanct but which now inconveniently suggest that prices are far too high. The bulls spend a lot of time explaining why the old measures no longer apply. In effect, they are saying that things are different this time.

The bears, meanwhile, reinforce their point that economic conditions simply will not stay as favourable in the coming year. Companies have already squeezed all the extra costs and productivity gains they can out of their operation over the past few years. To expect more is unrealistic.

We are almost certainly at the bottom of the interest rate and inflation cycle. There is little doubt the US economy is fairly robust, which may lead to higher inflation and a consequent rise in interest rates. In any case, the bears argue, it is foolish to bet against an interest rate rise, because of the attitude of the Federal Reserve Board and Alan Greenspan, its chairman.

Mr Greenspan terrified the markets shortly before Christmas by suggesting that share prices were suffering from "irrational exuberance". He has

made it clear he thinks the stock market is developing into a dangerous bubble that could be unnecessarily destructive. Bubbles need to be pricked before they grow too big, so if the market continues to rise, it is reasonable to assume that Mr Greenspan may increase interest rates to do just this, even if inflation stays level. So a rise in interest rates — the event the market probably fears most — is highly likely, if not inevitable.

How far might the market fall? At the soft end of predictions is Michael Metz, equity strategist for Oppenheimer, who sees either a static market or a gentle decline until prices return to their historical levels. This could take most of the year, longer.

At the cataclysmic end is veteran pundit Barton Biggs, chief global strategist at Morgan Stanley. He foresees a correction "pretty soon" of ten to 30 per cent. Needless to say, ten per cent would be a shock for a market used to relentless advance, but 30 per cent would be an earthquake approaching the crash of the early 1970s in severity. Mr Biggs is, of course, advising investors to dump stocks and build up cash in their portfolios.

Overseas markets will fall when New York falls, says Mr Biggs. He is probably right. Seeing the way London and Tokyo, not to mention a slew of lesser markets, flew into a panic over Mr Greenspan's remarks, it is feared the rest of the world is looking to the US for a lead. The great importance, if the market does start to fall, is what the millions of small investors who have pumped hundreds of billions of dollars of savings into equities over the past two years may do. Historical evidence suggests private investors tend to panic less than professionals in market downturns, but the past, as they say, is not necessarily a guide to the future.

The big freeze and low stocks help to heat up price of oil

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

Oil prices have started the year with a rally, the freezing weather across Europe having stoked demand for heating oil, much as it did during the cold snap in America a year ago.

The February futures contract for Brent crude oil traded on the International Petroleum Exchange in London was up 56 cents a barrel at \$24.37 yesterday from its 1996 closing price.

Brent prices are still around 70 cents below the six-year high of \$25.06 a barrel that was reached a few months ago but traders said that an extended cold spell combined with low oil storage tanks might trigger a fresh rally that could challenge that level.

Alan Haywood, of Bankers Trust International oil division in London, said: "We see oil prices being volatile in the short term but with an upward bias."

"It's hard to be bearish with the cold weather but the market has been jumpier over the holiday period and will take a few days to settle down."

Severely cold weather continued across much of Europe yesterday and energy demand is expected to be well above normal, according to Weather Services Corporation, a private forecaster.

Some of the waterways that take heating oil up the Rhine to the important German market were partially blocked by ice yesterday and likely to cause delays, traders said.

Germany, easily Europe's biggest heating oil consumer, has been running on unusu-

ally thin inventories. German household stocks of heating oil fell in November to about 62 per cent of capacity, from 68 per cent last year, according to estimates from traders.

Gas oil (heating oil) futures traded in London have gained approximately 6 per cent over the past month and January futures were up \$7.50 a tonne at \$231.25 in mid-morning. But for German consumers, a surge of oil loading in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, costs \$2 a tonne above futures even before transport costs are added.

Adding a bullish twist to European developments was news earlier this week that China needs to import about one million tonnes of diesel fuel over the next month to ease a domestic shortage. Diesel fuel comes from the same cut of an oil barrel as heating oil and the Chinese demand might soak some of that oil out of Europe.

In the important region of northeastern United States, distillate stocks, which include heating oil, are 13 per cent lower than levels experienced a year ago.

Meanwhile, oil markets have had little difficulty so far in absorbing the limited volumes of Iraqi oil exports that are permitted under the United Nations oil-for-food exchange.

Iraq has just started to export under one of 21 contracts for some 500,000 barrels a day of crude oil, sales enough at current prices to raise the \$2 billion that it is allowed over a six-month period to pay for humanitarian needs.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

COMPANY NOTICES

MAZIN'S LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the AGED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will take place at 12.30 on Friday 21 January 1997 at 20, Upper Portland Street, London W1P 9LP. The business to be transacted at the meeting is as follows: (1) To receive and adopt the accounts and reports of the directors and the auditors for the year ended 31 December 1996; (2) To elect directors in place of those retiring; (3) To elect auditors in place of those retiring; (4) To transact any other business that may come before the meeting.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE DATA SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was presented to the High Court of Justice for the winding up of the Data Systems International Limited on 12 December 1996. The Petition was presented by the Liquidator of the Data Systems International Limited, who is acting as Liquidator of the Data Systems International Limited. The Petition was presented to the High Court of Justice for the winding up of the Data Systems International Limited on 12 December 1996. The Petition was presented by the Liquidator of the Data Systems International Limited, who is acting as Liquidator of the Data Systems International Limited. The Petition was presented to the High Court of Justice for the winding up of the Data Systems International Limited on 12 December 1996. The Petition was presented by the Liquidator of the Data Systems International Limited, who is acting as Liquidator of the Data Systems International Limited. 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Sharp falls in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ... BANKS ... BREWERIES, PUBS & REST ... DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS ... ENGINEERING VEHICLES ... FOOD MANUFACTURERS ... HOUSEHOLD GOODS ... INSURANCE ... INVESTMENT TRUSTS ... DISTRIBUTORS ...	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ... BANKS ... BREWERIES, PUBS & REST ... DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS ... ENGINEERING VEHICLES ... FOOD MANUFACTURERS ... HOUSEHOLD GOODS ... INSURANCE ... INVESTMENT TRUSTS ... DISTRIBUTORS ...	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ... BANKS ... BREWERIES, PUBS & REST ... DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS ... ENGINEERING VEHICLES ... FOOD MANUFACTURERS ... HOUSEHOLD GOODS ... INSURANCE ... INVESTMENT TRUSTS ... DISTRIBUTORS ...	ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ... BANKS ... BREWERIES, PUBS & REST ... DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS ... ENGINEERING VEHICLES ... FOOD MANUFACTURERS ... HOUSEHOLD GOODS ... INSURANCE ... INVESTMENT TRUSTS ... DISTRIBUTORS ...
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1996/97	High	Low	Close	1996/97	High	Low	Close
SHORTS (under 5 years)							
100%	100.00	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	100.00	100.00
90%	90.00	90.00	90.00	90%	90.00	90.00	90.00
80%	80.00	80.00	80.00	80%	80.00	80.00	80.00
70%	70.00	70.00	70.00	70%	70.00	70.00	70.00
60%	60.00	60.00	60.00	60%	60.00	60.00	60.00
50%	50.00	50.00	50.00	50%	50.00	50.00	50.00
40%	40.00	40.00	40.00	40%	40.00	40.00	40.00
30%	30.00	30.00	30.00	30%	30.00	30.00	30.00
20%	20.00	20.00	20.00	20%	20.00	20.00	20.00
10%	10.00	10.00	10.00	10%	10.00	10.00	10.00
0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
LONGS (over 15 years)							
100%	100.00	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	100.00	100.00
90%	90.00	90.00	90.00	90%	90.00	90.00	90.00
80%	80.00	80.00	80.00	80%	80.00	80.00	80.00
70%	70.00	70.00	70.00	70%	70.00	70.00	70.00
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30%	30.00	30.00	30.00	30%	30.00	30.00	30.00
20%	20.00	20.00	20.00	20%	20.00	20.00	20.00
10%	10.00	10.00	10.00	10%	10.00	10.00	10.00
0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNLIMITED							
100%	100.00	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	100.00	100.00
90%	90.00	90.00	90.00	90%	90.00	90.00	90.00
80%	80.00	80.00	80.00	80%	80.00	80.00	80.00
70%	70.00	70.00	70.00	70%	70.00	70.00	70.00
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30%	30.00	30.00	30.00	30%	30.00	30.00	30.00
20%	20.00	20.00	20.00	20%	20.00	20.00	20.00
10%	10.00	10.00	10.00	10%	10.00	10.00	10.00
0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00
INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of 3%)							
100%	100.00	100.00	100.00	100%	100.00	100.00	100.00
90%	90.00	90.00	90.00	90%	90.00	90.00	90.00
80%	80.00	80.00	80.00	80%	80.00	80.00	80.00
70%	70.00	70.00	70.00	70%	70.00	70.00	70.00
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30%	30.00	30.00	30.00	30%	30.00	30.00	30.00
20%	20.00	20.00	20.00	20%	20.00	20.00	20.00
10%	10.00	10.00	10.00	10%	10.00	10.00	10.00
0%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0.00	0.00

PHARMACEUTICALS ... PRINTING & PAPER ... PROPERTY ... TELECOMMUNICATIONS ... TEXTILES & APPAREL ... TRANSPORT ... RETAILERS, FOOD ... RETAILERS, GENERAL ... WATER ... ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET ...	PHARMACEUTICALS ... PRINTING & PAPER ... PROPERTY ... TELECOMMUNICATIONS ... TEXTILES & APPAREL ... TRANSPORT ... RETAILERS, FOOD ... RETAILERS, GENERAL ... WATER ... ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET ...	PHARMACEUTICALS ... PRINTING & PAPER ... PROPERTY ... TELECOMMUNICATIONS ... TEXTILES & APPAREL ... TRANSPORT ... RETAILERS, FOOD ... RETAILERS, GENERAL ... WATER ... ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET ...	PHARMACEUTICALS ... PRINTING & PAPER ... PROPERTY ... TELECOMMUNICATIONS ... TEXTILES & APPAREL ... TRANSPORT ... RETAILERS, FOOD ... RETAILERS, GENERAL ... WATER ... ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET ...	PHARMACEUTICALS ... PRINTING & PAPER ... PROPERTY ... TELECOMMUNICATIONS ... TEXTILES & APPAREL ... TRANSPORT ... RETAILERS, FOOD ... RETAILERS, GENERAL ... WATER ... ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET ...	PHARMACEUTICALS ... PRINTING & PAPER ... PROPERTY ... TELECOMMUNICATIONS ... TEXTILES & APPAREL ... TRANSPORT ... RETAILERS, FOOD ... RETAILERS, GENERAL ... WATER ... ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET ...
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EXHIBITS



■ VISUAL ART

How Baroness Thyssen amassed her own collection of art, a wide variety of more than 500 paintings



■ OPERA

The Royal Opera begins an uncertain 1997 with an upbeat New Year's Day revival of *Chérubin*

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ TOMORROW

Jeremy Kingston on the return to London of Cirque du Soleil's circus extravaganza *Saltimbanco*



■ MONDAY

Robert Lepage brings his *Elsinore* to the National Theatre. Read Benedict Nightingale's verdict

VISUAL ART: As her collection tours China, Baroness Thyssen tells Isabel Carlisle what inspires her

Lady with a Latin passion for art

Carmen Cervera, as she is still popularly known in Spain, is something of a national heroine, which has only a little to do with the fact that she was once crowned Miss Spain. In 1985 she married the German steel magnate Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, and was instrumental in his decision in 1988 to decline Margaret Thatcher's offer of a new museum at Canary Wharf for his collection of Old Master and modern paintings.



The art, including Holbein's portrait of Henry VIII, went instead to Madrid. As part of the deal, the Spanish Government paid for a £220 million restructuring of the Villahermosa Palace near the Prado, for which Baroness Thyssen

I collect because I have this inner feeling, and to improve the collection

BARONESS THYSSEN

chose the marble floors and the apricot-plink walls. My meeting with the baron and baroness in the Villahermosa, to talk about her own recently formed collection, coincided with a press conference at which art and political diplomacy were again combined. Baroness Thyssen and the Chinese Ambassador in Madrid were putting their signatures to a sponsorship deal: the baroness's paintings are to be shown in Peking, and Chinese Eastern Airlines had offered to fly them out. The Baron, who sent 14 exhibitions of his collection to the Soviet Union during the Brezhnev era, says: "We believe in the diplomacy of art because it brings people and countries closer together. The Chinese were looking for an exhibition that combined American 19th-century works, Impressionist paintings and Picasso, all of which Carmen has."

It is no coincidence that these are also the strengths of the baron's own collection, started by his father in the 1920s and greatly expanded during the 1930s when works hurriedly sold by Jewish collectors fleeing from the Nazis. The seed paintings for the baroness's collection were given to her by her husband in 1993, shortly after the Spanish Government decided to make the Villahermosa display permanent by buying all the works for £150 million. The money from that sale was divided among the baron's children and the private collection was similarly split, one portion going to the baroness. But it is one thing to be given a collection, another to become a collector when you are nearly 50. What sparked that?



The 500 paintings in Baroness Thyssen's collection include this early Picasso, *The Harvesters*; works by Gauguin; a Kandinsky or two, a couple of Canalettos and a little Goya

museum-quality painting, and a key work in terms of the baroness's collection, from an artistic period on which she has concentrated her buying. "I have always been in love with 19th and 20th-century Spanish painting and no one, not even museums, has collected these paintings seriously," she says. "A very strong link exists between them and

French and American paintings of the same date." American landscapes by 19th-century artists such as Albert Bierstadt and Frederic Church, with their vermilion sunsets and bright yellow dawns, were snapped up in the 1970s by the baron when museums and clubs were eager to raise cash for buying Impressionists. Several have

found their way into the baroness's collection, together with colourful "genre" scenes of everyday life a hundred or more years ago by little-known artists; major works by Gauguin of Martinique and Tahiti; an early painting by Picasso called *The Harvesters*; a Kandinsky or two; a couple of Canalettos; a little Goya picture of *Beggars at a Foun-*

tain; and others. In all there are more than 500 paintings, valued in March this year by the Spanish magazine *Antena* at £125 million.

In terms of quality the collection is uneven. Genre scenes are particularly prone to sliding into the chocolate-box league, and the baroness admits her enthusiasms are for people and colour, as well

as light and water. That may well change. Collections evolve over time and this one has hardly begun, driven by the vagaries of a new-found passion (some collectors call it an addiction). "I collect because I have this inner feeling and I collect in order to make the collection better. I like art because artists paint what they feel. I don't have

OPERA: John Allison on a fine revival of *Chérubin* at Covent Garden

Satisfying sex'n'sentiment

AS IF anxious not to waste a moment before Covent Garden's closure, the Royal Opera began an upbeat New Year's Day revival of *Chérubin*. Casting Massenet's light comedy *chantée* with strength from top to bottom, and persuading the conductor John Eliot Gardiner to make one of his all-too-rare appearances in a British opera house, it hardly resembled the company that only last autumn was turning out standard repertoire in a string of lacklustre revivals.

Chérubin is too insubstantial to be standard repertoire, but it does not deserve its neglect or even the sneering "sex'n'sentiment" gibes of the composer's detractors. Its unpretentious plot takes up the story of the post-*Figaro* *Chérubino*, at 17 enjoying a very amorous education in spite of the efforts of his tutor. He chases every skirt that



Unlovely in love: Elizabeth Futral and Susan Graham

sparkle so without Tim Albery's production, which the director himself has returned to supervise. Recognising that the piece lacks the satirical bite of Offenbach, Albery nevertheless stages it as an operetta, with gags that are never overplayed. Antony

McDonald's storybook, Dufy-inspired designs are beguiling, and alert to the emotional temperature of each act. Above all, it is the cast that makes this *Chérubin* unmissable. Susan Graham returns to the (travesti) title role, her rich and wonderfully focused high mezzo matched to crisp words and a very physical portrayal of the ardent adolescent. Robert Lloyd is again fine as Le Philosophe, but the objects of the boyish passion are all new. Elizabeth Futral, a glittering *L'Enseleillad*, Alison Hagley, a devoted Nina, and Nicole Tibbels in her Royal Opera debut as the Countess, William Dazeley stands out in his house debut as the Count, joining Ryland Davies's Duke and Thomas Allen's deliciously camp Baron to make up the powder-puff trio that plays for unashamed laughs.

JOHN ALLISON

Farce sans fun

THERE ought to be a good reason for the Abbey's decision to rework *The Marriage of Figaro*, Beaumarchais' sequel to *The Barber of Seville*, two hundred years after it was written. Michael West's translation, however, offers none. The bare bones of a predictably knotty farce are certainly present. Before the scheming servants Figaro (Andrew Bennett) can marry his true love, Suzanne (Karen Ardill), he must set free a couple of hostages to fortune. Find the parents who abandoned him at birth, and keep his vernal master, the Count (Nick Dunning), away from his beloved.

West has transposed Beaumarchais' play from the late 18th century to the middle of the 20th, and slipped it into the same milieu as Jean Renoir's *La Règle du Jeu*. This was perhaps not the wisest decision, for the contrasts, most obviously in levels of energy and comic imagination, between Renoir's work and West's are far from flattering to the young Irish writer. Even with pauses for en-

THEATRE

The Marriage of Figaro
Abbey, Dublin

J'ai deux Amours and a protracted dance scene that leaves the large cast gasping for air, *The Marriage of Figaro* lacks exuberance. The language of farce is clearly not one that the director, Brian Brady, speaks with any fluency. Lust, hy-

pocrisy and subterfuges are all givens here, but he does not come close to knowing why any of them is funny. Spacing is a problem. Even when embracing, the cast seem strangely isolated one from the other, acting into too much empty space. Bennett makes a fair Figaro, skating between manipulative, worldly and plain dumb, but his interactions always register a degree or two below body temperature. Ardill, so impressive recently in *Good Morning Mr Collins*, is here almost entirely lost in the undergrowth as Suzanne.

LUKE CLANCY

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GIFT ORDERS



POP 3

A sneak preview of what's hip and happening in 1997 from David Bowie celebrating his half-century



POP 4

...to that eagerly awaited third album from the undisputed kings of Britpop, Oasis

THE ARTS



POP 5

Caitlin Moran is putting her money on Tiger. "definitely as big as 1997" deems it tasteful for bands to be



JAZZ

Out now: The Complete Legendary Rockland Palace Concert, a must for Charlie Parker completists

What will we be listening to in 1997? Times writers keep an ear to the ground and a weather eye on the main chance

I'm in demand, I am the beat

Simply everyone, from the Prodigy to U2 and David Bowie, will be laying down a groove on the dance floor. Paul Sexton reports

As the high street shelves are refilled with the first new music of 1997, the traditional winter-temperament debate is on again. Are we in for 12 months of British music shaped by the share dividends of multinational corporations, or will this be a year in which home-grown creativity comes charging to the rescue? The new year's resolutions of several interested parties suggest we may approach 1997 with optimism, as long as those artists holding the balance of power do not disappear up their own ears.

"All of a sudden last year, kids were buying records again," says Neil Burrow, of Jam X Management. "I don't see why that shouldn't go on in 1997, and beyond." Burrow is the manager of the Bluetones, one of the freshest of last year's harvest of guitar bands, whose debut album *Expecting to Fly* sold 300,000 copies.

Burrow believes that no balance sheet or corporate policy can tell the "kids" where to place their money. "Surely it all comes down to a hand being a good hand. If that's not right, I shouldn't be doing this job."

If any guitar band will determine the sound of rock this year, it will be Oasis. Their third album, rumoured to be titled *Definitely Maybe*, is not yet scheduled for release, but its launch will come not a second too soon for the industry and adoring fans alike.

"I'll be very interested to see which way Oasis go," says Simon Fowler of Ocean Colour Scene, themselves one of the shining successes of 1996. "They know how to survive, and I do admire that."

Fowler feels that British rock's positive surge will continue this year, especially since the "Britpop"

label is no longer around to pigeonhole artists. "That was a very easy get-out, but I think it was a bit of a crutch between then and the present," he says. "The situation now allows more creativity. I don't think Kula Shaker could have happened two years ago. A lot of people have an awful lot of confidence, because they don't

A lot of people have an awful lot of confidence

see themselves as having to fit in with a certain thing."

Ocean Colour Scene will release a 12-sided compilation next month while continuing work on the sequel to *Moseley Shoals*, their breakthrough album which has now gone double platinum, while the Bluetones are demoing songs for their second 12. Meanwhile the first among the rock side to give up fresh tracks this year will be Blur, whose self-titled fifth album is released next month. The single *Beetlebum*, out on January 20, is a welcome departure from the barrow-boy-pop of *Country House*, in favour of the more experimental style of Blur's earlier years. They will spend much of the year on the road, with British festival dates planned for the summer and a UK arena tour at year's end.

Meanwhile, U2 are due back in early March with *Pop*, their first

studio set since 1993's *Zooropa*. The title of the band's impending single, *Discotheque*, hints at the club sensibility that New York DJ collaborator Howie B will bring to their stadium-targeted rock attack. April will bring *Ultra*, Depeche Mode's first album since singer Dave Gahan attempted suicide and then overdosed before successfully entering rehabilitation.

The Chemical Brothers, collaborators with Noel Gallagher on one of 1996's most vital chart-topping singles, *Setting Sun*, are expected, along with the Prodigy, to spearhead dance music's continuing takeover of the mainstream. "It's interesting that two of the biggest rock records of 1996 were dance records," says Simon Sadler, head of music at London dance radio station Kiss 100, of *Setting Sun* and the Prodigy's *Firestarter*. "Although you wonder whether it is strictly dance any more, I think far more indie fans than dance fans bought *Setting Sun*."

Even 12 months ago, it would have been hard to swallow the idea of a record as hard-hitting as *Firestarter*, by a group with as confrontational an image as the Prodigy, reaching into millions of living rooms on *Top of the Pops*. Sadler sees it as a reflection of the power of dance culture to retain the ears of a large audience. "Jungle music seems to be crossing over now, and we're contemplating introducing the current 'happy hardcore' sound to our daytime listeners. To a lot of them, that will sound as difficult as jungle did three years ago."

Jon Cobbin of Tower Records says: "The Prodigy album [due for



Last year the Prodigy crossed over from the clubs to the chart mainstream; this year David Bowie makes his own way into the jungle

release in the next few months] will be enormous. On a par with U2, I imagine." He also predicts that this month will see Bush, those British rockers adored in America but relatively unknown here, finally welcomed home, as their recent American No 1 *Razorblade Suitcase* is released on January 20.

Much of the class of '95 will rise again as Radiohead, Black Grape, Supergrass, Elastica, Cast and the Charlatans all return, but it may be some months before tabloid editors can again depend upon Jarvis Cocker on a slow news day, as Pulp's follow-up to *Different Class* is still a work in progress.

Memories and loyalties will be tested by the long-serving James, creators of three Top Three albums

between 1990 and 1993, whose *Whiplash* is released on February 24. Morrissey, licking his wounds and tending to his wallet after his High Court drubbing last month, will be under pressure to arrest a creative and commercial decline with his next album, to be previewed with a single in late March.

Newcomers of whom England expects more than most include Mansun, whose recent Top 15 hit *Wide Open Space* heightened anticipation for their first album *Attack of the Grey Lantern* (out next month). Geneva, labelmates of Suede at Nude Records, are also widely fancied, with a debut set due in May, and John Squire, who managed to get out of the Stone Roses' building before it crumbled

to dust, is likely to return to prominence with his new outfit Seahorses, currently ensconced in a Los Angeles studio with the veteran producer Terry Visconti.

One of Visconti's most famous former charges, David Bowie, is knee-deep in wrapping paper and rehearsals. His 50th birthday will be marked variously by BBC2's *Changes* interview tomorrow evening, ITV's *David Bowie Night* next Tuesday and an all-star concert on January 9 at Madison Square Garden in New York, at which Bowie will perform with Lou Reed, Robert Smith of the Cure and others. He has even found time to make a record: *Earthling*, out next month and reportedly full of jungle and trip-hop influences.

Bowie will not be the only member of the old guard back on duty. Virgin Records speaks in hope rather than expectation of a new Rolling Stones album before year's end; Keith Richards's Jamaican-leaning solo project is likely to emerge first. Simple Minds are completing an album for summer release, and EMI confidently expects 1997 to be a Kane Bush year, which come only slightly more often than total eclipses.

And even those fans of the palaeolithic age of rock will be catered for. Even as I write, work is being completed in Santa Monica on a comeback album by Supertramp, backed by an exhaustive world tour. Can the REO Speedwagon revival be far behind?

And here's the real spice girls

The year 1997 will see no new Oasis — the pop world is too contrary to keep travelling in the same alpine stream and, indeed, feeding off the same Beatles and Cream albums. Instead, 1997 will be a year of odd bands painting smaller pictures: global domination will be given a rest in favour of the spawning of new scenes.

Plus! Words are back. After dance-paired lyrics down to the odd catch-phrase and whoop, rock countered with the incomprehensible roar of grunge. Lyrics continued, to take a back seat with the rise of Oasis, who combined the minimalism of techno with the passion of grunge to give us roared catch-phrases. The resurgence of lyricism and poetry started with Blur's millennium-hugging city-love, continued with Pulp's wry, eyed filthy gossip, and encouraged the Divine Comedy and Baby Bird along the way.

This year promises a legion of bands who can talk it like they walk it, spinning Dylan-words and strewing articulate adrenaalin in their wake.

Jack, six stringy lotharios, do that word-thing gloriously. Of *Lights* has singer Anthony Shiverling as he watches "the widowed Moll moving through the gangster's bar/As a Jaguar through an orchestra", and despairing with the thought that "all this horror... and just supposing, just imagine if the world wasn't ending?" The music is that saving, heart-between-your-teeth gasp that Leonard Cohen would be perfecting it

Canny young Caitlin Moran deals out a winning hand, but saves her trump card of a female band for last

he were in *Strangelove*. Their second album is due out when things get summerish. Live, they're black electricity in suits, and built to withstand loud screaming.

Riding similar dark circuitry are 16 Horsepower, whose utterly atrocious name may cause the more wary to run away from them, wincing. However, those who manage to withstand the ignominy of uttering their name in HMV will be taking home an album of demon-driven awe — *How* is twichy Appalachian lightning music, blue country and twangy whisky soundtrack all the way. As their canny

manager has booked them into all the festivals this summer, by autumn we'll all be doing clog dances and thinking about buying a banjo.

Broadcast's weak link in the chain-of-armor of coolness is that they're from Birmingham. This is still enough to sink most bands, but as Broadcast don't have a hint of the Bull Ring about them, and sound like they maintain their music straight from the Moon, they should weather the waves easily. Its sub-aquatic tripping music for those still craving the word-quessly blissful pop stitched from the threads of the *Mid-*

night *Cowboy* soundtrack. They've learnt a lot from their mentors, Stereolab, but imbued the Lab's blueprint with a sweeter, richer, sleepier baby-brightness. Their latest single, *The Booklovers*, is out in two weeks.

Of course, speculation on future success is all very well, but we all crave a certain amount of, well, certainty. Tiger will definitely be as big as 1997 deems it tasteful for bands to be. Their debut album, *We Are Puppets*, comes over all Suzi Quatro fronting Elastica — big-booted stomping and plenty of choruses to yell. Embrace will also be soundtracking a fair part of your life this year; they use the same dynamics as Oasis, building their choruses sky-high and very clearly indicating where medium-sized audiences should be singing along.

The most definite of all bets, though, are Kenickie: a blonde, a brunette and a spiritual redhead, the result of an imaginary collaboration between the Slits and Phil Spector. With an average age of 18, and the wit of Eddie Izzard to wing them into the eager arms of the press and TV, Kenickie have 1997 sewn up. There's the forthcoming single *I'm Your Car* and a debut album in spring (it's a rush of vivid pop genius).

Most importantly, however, they will be touring almost every city in Britain this year. You must see them. Imagine a punk-pop Prodigy with three Kenicks and an obsession with expensive lipsticks. Kenickie are rock.



"All Suzi Quatro fronting Elastica — big-booted stomping and plenty of choruses to yell": that's the wonder of Tiger

ROBERT MAZUREK
Green & Blue
(Hep CD2067)
COMMISSIONED by the Scottish Arts Council to write what he terms a "travel sketch", Chicago trumpeter/cornetist Robert Mazurek has skillfully woven his impressions of Scotland in with musical reactions to Brazil (his wife's home country) to produce a suite of bright, airy themes interpreted with great punch and drive by his quintet. Mazurek, a fiery but pure-toned player, shares frontline duties with tenorman Eric Alexander, whose warm, rounded tone on ballads contrasts tellingly with a gutsy approach to up-tempo pieces.

The band's material is somewhat reminiscent of the sort of muscular, swinging hard bop and soul jazz purveyed by Blue Note in the 1960s, but

Carnival in Scotland

Mazurek's interest in Brazilian rhythms lifts this highly enjoyable album out of the ranks of retro-jazz.

CHARLIE PARKER
The Complete Legendary Rockland Palace Concert 1952
(Jazz Classics Records CD-JZCL5014)
RECORDED at a benefit gig for the leftist lawyer Benjamin Davis in Sep-

tember 1952, the 31 tracks range from top classics such as *Ornithology* through blues and ballads to swing staples (a frenetic version of *Lesser Leaps*) and the odd calypso. Parker's jazz quinner, unusually featuring guitarist Mundell Lowe and faultlessly propelled throughout by drummer Max Roach, is joined by a string section, although the poorish sound quality renders it almost inaudible at times.

Parker himself, however, leaps and soars from the soppy backing, his tumbling, protean inventiveness and the elegant but piercing cry of his alto instantly recognisable, rendering this recording — issued in more or less complete form for the first time — indispensable to Bird completists.

CHRIS PARKER

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Only one reason need be given for issuing warrant of commitment

Regina v Stockport Justices, Ex parte Conlon
Regina v Newark and Southwell Justices, Ex parte Keenaghan

Before Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Tucker
[Judgment December 18]

When issuing a warrant of commitment in respect of an offender over the age of 21, magistrates were only obliged by section 82(6) of the Magistrates Courts Act 1980 to state which one of the conditions in section 82(4) was satisfied. That was the only statutory requirement in relation to adults.

Only if an offender was under 21 were they obliged additionally (i) to give the grounds on which they were satisfied that it was undesirable or impracticable to make a money payment supervision order and (ii) to state in open court the reason for their opinion that no other method of dealing with the offender was appropriate and cause that reason to be specified in the warrant of commitment and to be entered in the register.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by Carol Jane Conlon by way of case stated against the refusal on April 15, 1996, by Stockport Justices to review the issue of commitment warrants in respect of fines imposed but unpaid, and allowing an application by Stella Keenaghan for judicial review of the decision of Newark and Southwell Justices of July 4, 1996 to commit her for failing to pay fines imposed after her conviction of using a television set without a licence.

Mr Ian Wise for the appellant and the applicant.

LORD JUSTICE STAUGHTON said that the two cases, which concerned enforcement procedures for fines, were of considerable importance because apparently there were some hundred or so like them in the Crown Office list.

It was the task of magistrates to identify defaulters for whom imprisonment was unavoidable and to distinguish them from those where some other measure was appropriate. Nobody could doubt that the task was difficult or that the vast majority of magistrates were diligent and conscientious in the way they discharged it.

Under section 82(4) of the 1980 Act magistrates might not issue a warrant of commitment for a default in paying a fine unless the offender appeared to the court to have sufficient means to pay the sum forthwith, or the court was (i) satisfied that the default was due to the offender's wilful refusal or culpable neglect and (ii) the court had considered or tried all other methods of enforcing payment of

the sum and it appeared to the court that they were inappropriate or unsuccessful.

The "other methods" were now listed in section 82(4A), inserted by section 61 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988. They were (i) a distress warrant, (ii) an attendance centre order, (iii) a fine enforcement order, (iv) attachment of earnings, (v) enforcement in the High Court or county court. Direct deduction from income support payments was said to be another method of enforcement which ought to be considered.

By section 82(6) magistrates were obliged when issuing a warrant of commitment on the ground that one of the conditions in section 82(4) was satisfied to state that fact, specifying the ground, in the warrant.

That subsection was of critical importance in these two cases which were both concerned with offenders over 21. In such a case it provided the only statutory requirement that the justices give reasons.

In the case of offenders under 21 there were two additional statutory requirements:

1 That the court should state in the warrant the grounds on which it was satisfied that it was undesirable or impracticable to make a money payment supervision order; see section 88(3) of the 1980 Act as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1982, and

2 That the court should state in open court the reason for its opinion that no other method of dealing with such an offender was appropriate and cause that reason to be specified in the warrant of commitment and to be entered in the register as section 82(4A) of the Criminal Justice Act 1982.

In case there had been any misunderstanding of the judgment in *R v Oldham Justices, Ex parte Cawley* [1994] 2 WLR 681, to which the court had been referred, his Lordship repeated that neither of those requirements applied to an adult, and therefore to the present cases, where compliance with section 82(6) was enough.

The *Guidance for Sentencers* produced by the Magistrates' Association and the Justices' Clerks' Society in some respects went further than the *Cawley* decision.

Thus the enforcement check list had the following requirement: "Give your reasons for finding that each of the above enforcement actions is now inappropriate or likely to be unsuccessful."

There was also a draft pronouncement which left space for a reason for rejecting each of the six other methods of enforcement. Lord Justice Simon Brown in *Cawley* evidently did not regard that as a requirement imposed in the case of an adult by section 82(6)

alone, and neither did his Lordship.

They were of course entitled, if they thought fit, to recommend that more elaborate reasons should be given than the law required but the task imposed on magistrates in a fine enforcement court was already demanding: it was for others to decide whether a requirement for more elaborate reasons would promote justice.

Having said that, the last section of the *Guidance for Sentencers* headed "Use of money payment supervision orders" following *Cawley* which contained advice to magistrates, was to be commended.

Having considered the case stated by the justices in *Miss Conlon's* case, his Lordship did not consider, in the light of the above, that the justices had acted unlawfully.

In *Mrs Keenaghan's* case the justices had acted rationally and lawfully except in relation to their rejection of a fine supervision order which in the circumstances was illogical because they relied on the probation officer's report that such an order was inappropriate having rejected the underlying facts which led the probation officer to his conclusion. Accordingly, her case would be remitted to the magistrates for reconsideration.

His Lordship added by way of postscript that he was troubled not about the remedies which the magistrates had to choose from as a means of enforcement but the size of the fines which those on income support were expected to pay out of resources which were said to be only sufficient for the necessities of life.

Over a short period of time the money provided as income support might be sufficient for paying a small but regular amount towards fines but contingencies might occur which would strain a tight budget to breaking point. The fact that, in an ordinary week, there might be £5 available did not by any means lead to the conclusion that there were no difficulties in every week of the year.

His Lordship would have preferred a solution where fines on those of limited means were lesser in amount, or at least lesser in total, so that they could be paid in a manner of weeks, and where regular payment was firmly enforced. The Crime (Sentences) Bill, now before Parliament, proposed a community service order instead of a fine in the case of those with limited means who had defaulted in the past. It would also allow the magistrates to impose a community service order as a penalty for fine default.

Mr Justice Tucker agreed.

Solicitors: Clyde Chappell & Bootham, Stoke-on-Trent.

Walker v Simon Dudley Ltd
Before Lord Justice Phillips and Mr Justice Hooper
[Judgment December 17]

Where a supplier undertook to supply future goods complying with requirements specified by the customer and it was reasonable to infer that the goods were supplied as corresponding to that trade description, section 43(3) of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968 applied so that the supplier was deemed to have applied to the goods at the time of supply the trade description used in the customer's request.

Accordingly, where the trade description proved false at the time of supply, the supplier committed an offence under section 1(1)(b), subject to any defence under section 24.

For the purposes of section 1(1)(b), if a vendor represented to a purchaser, or a prospective purchaser, that unascertained or future goods would meet certain requirements when supplied, those representations continued in force at the time of the supply, provided that that was a reasonable inference to draw in the circumstances.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, allowing an appeal by case stated by the prosecuting trading standards officer, David Walker, against the acquittal by Mr Philip Browning, a stipendiary magistrate sitting at Shrewsbury Magistrates' Court on January 26, 1996, of the defendants, Simon Dudley Ltd, of four informations alleging the unlawful supply of goods to which a false trade description was applied, contrary to section 1(1)(b). The court imposed an absolute discharge for each offence.

On February 15, 1990 the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service sent to the defendants for tender a

specification for the supply of a fire engine. The defendants tendered on the basis of that specification and agreed that the engine would comply with its specified qualities.

Although there was no finding of fact that it was "reasonable to infer that the goods [were] supplied as goods corresponding to that trade description", there could be no dispute that that inference had to be drawn.

The relevant time for deciding whether a trade description was applied for the purposes of section 1(1)(b) was the moment of supply. The prosecution had to prove that earlier representations about the goods had been "carried along" to use the words of Lord Justice Watkins in *Cavendish Woodhouse Ltd v Wright* [1985] 1 WLR 40, 76; that they were trade descriptions and that they were false. It mattered not whether the goods existed or were to be acquired or manufactured at the time of the representations.

There was no requirement in the statute of knowledge. The words "error in the course of supply" in *Cavendish* (at 76) should be treated with caution.

LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS, concurring with that section 43(3) simply required that the goods should be supplied pursuant to a request in which a trade description was given rise to the inference that the goods supplied corresponded to that description.

The test was a simple test of fact and did not depend on whether or when the trade description became a term of the contract. In the case of informations 1, 3 and 4 the fire engine was clearly supplied pursuant to a request in which a trade description was used, the specification coupled with the acceptance of the tender, and the circumstances in which the fire engine was

supplied were equally clearly such as to make it reasonable to infer that the fire engine was supplied as corresponding to the specification.

Information 2 was less easy to accommodate within section 43(3). The request for the supply of a fire engine had already been made when the requirement for modifications was added to the trade description already specified.

Where, however, the trade description used in the original request was varied by a subsequent request, and the goods were supplied in circumstances such as to make it reasonable to infer that they corresponded to the description as varied, the person supplying the goods had to be deemed to have applied to the goods the trade description as varied.

That involved, perhaps, a slight extension to the literal meaning of section 43(3), but it was a necessary extension in order to produce a sensible interpretation in the circumstances postulated.

Section 43(3) was designed to cover the situation where the supplier made no express application of a trade description to goods, but made an implied trade description by supplying them pursuant to a request for goods of their description.

In the present case section 43(3) applied in the case of each of the informations and the magistrates should have convicted on that basis alone.

In the case of each information the defendants undertook that the fire engine would comply with the trade description requested. Mr Croftford submitted that that was a continuing representation that applied as a trade description of the fire engine at the moment of its supply, see *Cavendish*.

That submission was sound. Frequently a supplier applied a trade description to goods that he

agreed to supply in the future. They might be specific, unascertained or future goods.

In the latter circumstances, when he supplied the goods, the description that he had already undertaken would apply to them as a trade description that applied to them at the moment of supply, provided always that the circumstances surrounding the supply were such that that was the reasonable inference to draw.

If the description proved false, an offence under section 1(1)(b) would have been committed, subject to a possible defence under section 24.

The defendants contended that the fire engine would comply with the trade description specified by the fire service. It followed that the trade descriptions applied in the fire engine at the moment of supply. The description was false. For that reason alone they should have been convicted.

Offences under the 1968 Act would be committed on many occasions where a breach occurred of a contract for the sale of goods. That was not a satisfactory state of affairs, but it might be justified by the need to ensure fair trading in a wide variety of circumstances.

The consequence was, however, that technical offences would be committed where a civil law claim was the only remedy required. Trading standards officers had to exercise discretion when deciding whether or not a particular case warranted the intervention of the criminal law.

The magistrates did not consider that the case warranted a prosecution and neither did his Lordship. The case did not fall within the type of mischief against which the 1968 Act was directed.

Solicitors: Lanyon Bowdler, Shrewsbury, Wragge & Co, Birmingham.

When plaintiff cannot accept payment into court

Braben v Enmap Images Ltd
Before Mr Justice Chymyrenko, QC
[Judgment December 13]

A plaintiff who elected an account of profits rather than damages could not accept, under Order 22, rule 3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, a payment into court, made under Order 22, rule 1(1), which authorised payment in respect of claims for debt or damages, in satisfaction of his claim notwithstanding that the payment in was expressed to be made "in satisfaction of all the causes of action in respect of which the plaintiff claims".

Further, as the claim for damages no longer subsisted after the election for an account of profits had been made, the court could not order a payment out of the moneys remaining in court under Order 22, rule 5.

Mr John Chymyrenko, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division on a motion issued by David Braben against Enmap Images Ltd.

Mr Tim Penny for the plaintiff; Mr Michael Silverleaf, QC, for the defendant.

His Lordship said that in August 1995 the defendant published in the September 1995 issue of *PC Review* a cover design containing an infringing copy of a computer game written by the plaintiff. The plaintiff's statement of claim sought, inter alia, an inquiry as to damages or at the plaintiff's option an account of profits.

By its defence, Enmap admitted the infringement, offered an undertaking not to infringe further and offered to submit to judgment for an injunction, an order for delivery up and an inquiry as to damages or an account of profits subject to the plaintiff electing between those two remedies.

On October 11, 1995 the defendant gave notice of payment of £5,000 into court "in satisfaction of all the causes of action in respect of which the plaintiff claims".

The plaintiff elected to take an account of profits, rather than the claim to damages, but was willing to accept the moneys in court in satisfaction of its claim. The plaintiff then sought leave under Order 22, rule 5 to withdraw the payment into court.

The plaintiff had failed to accept the payment within 21 days pursuant to Order 22, rule 3 but argued that the court should exercise the discretion conferred by rule 5 to order payment out to it.

nothing having occurred since payment in to affect the likely quantum of the claim which would obtain if the action were to be fought out at trial.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, in *Gaskin v British Aluminium Co Ltd* [1976] 1 QB 524, 530 said that the discretion to order payment into court should not be exercised if the chances of success or failure at trial had substantially altered because it would be unfair to hold the defendant to a sum which he offered in different circumstances. He referred to court decisions changing the way in which damages were assessed or the discovery of further evidence of information as such changes in circumstances.

In his Lordship's judgment the plaintiff's application for payment out of the moneys in court failed for two reasons.

First, in the view he took of the proper construction of Order 22, rule 1(1) the plaintiff was not able to invoke Order 22, rule 5 following its election to take an account of profits rather than damages. Under Order 22, rule 1(1) the payment in which was authorised was in satisfaction of a cause or causes of action for a debt or damages: see paragraph 1(1) of rule 1 and *Young v Black Sluice Commissioners* [1909] JP 263.

It was true that, as in this case, a payment in was often expressed to be made in satisfaction of all causes of action when other items of relief as well as a debt or damages were claimed. However, paragraph 1(1) of rule 1 did enable

the plaintiff to apply to the court if he was "embarrassed by the payment".

Order 22, rule 3 for authorising the plaintiff to accept a payment in within 21 days provided: "... the plaintiff may: (a) where the money was paid in respect of the cause of action or all the causes of action in respect of which he claims, accept the money in satisfaction of those causes of action or those causes of action as the case may be."

In his Lordship's view, rule 3 only authorised acceptance in respect of a cause or causes of action for a debt or damages.

Order 22, rule 5 provided: "(1) If any money paid into court in an action is not accepted in accordance with rule 3, the money remaining in court shall not be paid out except in pursuance of an order of the court which may be made at any time before, at or after the trial or hearing of the action, and where such an order is made before the trial or hearing the money shall not be paid out except in satisfaction of the cause or causes of action in respect of which it was paid in."

In his Lordship's judgment, the concluding words precluded any payment out where the cause of action for a debt or damages in respect of which the moneys were paid in was no longer subsisting when the application for payment out was made.

That was the case here. The application was made before the trial or hearing of the action and the claim for damages disappeared when the plaintiff elected to take an account of profits instead.

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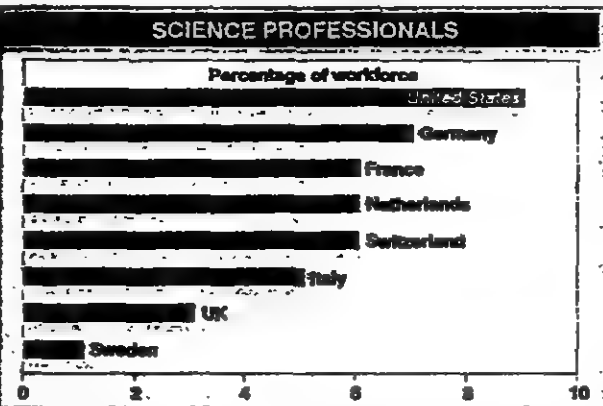
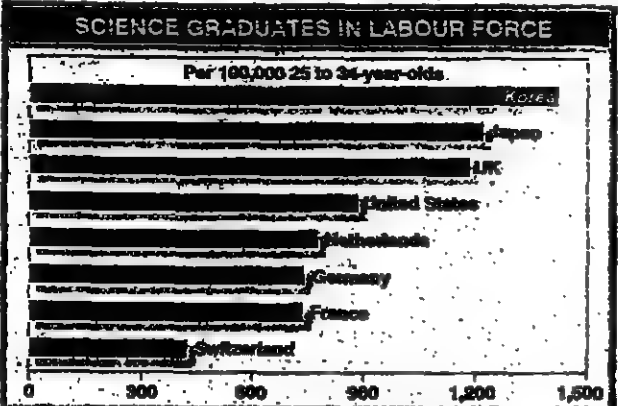
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A scientific mystery

John O'Leary
puts science
teaching and
jobs under the
microscope



Britain produces a lot of science graduates but a comparatively small number take up jobs in the field



Britain's need for more scientists and engineers has been one of the few areas of agreement in education policy over the past decade and more. The unsolved problem has been how to entice more teenagers away from the arts. Yesterday's conference in Birmingham of the Association for Science Education was an unexpected place to find the premise being questioned. Professor Alan Smithers, the head of Brunel University's Centre for Education and Employment Research, argued that there is no shortage in relation to the current jobs market.

He was not saying that the population has all the scientific education it needs, or that there is no scope for improvement in research. But his analysis suggested that quality is a bigger problem than quantity and that fundamental changes are needed if levels of scientific literacy are to rise.

The nub of his argument is that politicians and educationists have been addressing the wrong question on science education. Attention has focused on filling places on degree courses in an expanded university system and steering students towards "useful" scientific and technological subjects, rather than the arts and social sciences. At the same time, spending on research and development has been dropping in real terms, restricting job opportunities in the sciences. The combined result has been a surplus of poorly qualified graduates and not enough attention to important issues in the school curriculum.

Though more teenagers are taking science GCSEs and the numbers staying on for A level have soared, the proportion specialising in sciences in the sixth form has moved in the opposite direction. Mixing sci-

ence and arts A levels has become much more common, but only one in five who does so takes science or engineering at university.

Professor Smithers believes that poor science teaching may be partly responsible. More than a third of those taking postgraduate teaching qualifications in mathematics, physics and chemistry have at best a third-class degree. Only at the height of the recession did universities and colleges meet the Government's targets for recruitment in these subjects.

Another factor, he argues, is the disjunction between GCSE and A level. With the separate sciences at GCSE now the virtual preserve of grammar schools and the independent sector, most youngsters taking science subjects in the sixth

form lack the depth of knowledge needed to tackle A level. Research for last year's Dearing review showed that science A levels were anyway more demanding than arts.

One unintended effect has been what Professor Smithers terms the "polarisation of science". Subjects once seen as an ideal avenue for bright working-class boys, who were better able to express themselves in numerical and spatial terms than linguistically, are now more likely to be taken by middle-class teenagers at independent schools.

But the key question is whether Britain needs more scientists or more scientifically literate generalists. With salaries in science and engineering lagging behind those in most professions, young people are likely to be put off the subjects by the career prospects.

No European country can match the British proportion of science graduates in the labour force, but the proportion working as scientists is twice as high in Germany, France, Switzerland and The Netherlands. Professor Smithers sees the explanation for this apparent paradox in Britain's relatively low spending on research and development.

Professor Smithers believes that in the absence of a change of spending priorities, more attention should be given to the quality of education in science and engineering. This may mean more selectivity and some empty university places, as well as

Oxford selection: logic or lottery?

Michael Beloff
describes how
his college
chooses its
new students



Oxford has completed its selection process for next academic year's crop of undergraduates. The envelopes containing news of success or failure should have dropped through the letterbox before the last of the late posted Christmas cards. Is the system logical or a lottery?

As a new Head of House, I have been forcibly impressed with two quite different perceptions from the outside world. On the one hand, old members complain that there is no guaranteed place for their offspring and suspect a bias against the products of independent schools. On the other, Labour Party spokesmen suspect a bias in favour of precisely such people, and point to the imbalance of state and private students admitted. From conversations with my own college freshmen I detect that there remains even among conscientious school advisers a high degree of misapprehension about what colleges are looking for and how they hope to find it.

The attack from both flanks may suggest that Oxford has struck a happy balance. But in the first year after abolition of the formal entrance examination, the constituencies which Oxford serves look for a fuller explanation of what the colleges are about - for each college retains autonomy over its own admissions process.

I have no doubt that my college is seeking those with the capacity to profit most from their degree course. Achievement to date may indicate potential for the future, but it is not the sole indicator. Colleges do not penalise applicants from top public schools; however, they do sensibly make allowances for strong candidates who have had less opportunity to develop their intelligence to the full. Precisely that kind of adjustment has been made by those awarding Queen's scholarships at Eton and

ally a minimum of 2 As and a B) there is a safeguard against overoptimistic assessment, although errors of judgment are inevitably made. As I wrote in our annual report: "This college seeks to maintain an admissions system, based on merit, which is sensitive but fair, displaying neither prejudice nor partisanship. We are as happy when the Trinity spirit cascades down from generation to generation in a single family as when the college is given the chance to influence a fresher from a school, or country, with which it has no previous connection."

Is the concentration overmuch on academic potential and too little on other talents, musical, artistic or sporting? Excellence and commitment in one field may be a predictor of the same qualities in another. Between now and precisely matched candidates, a richer CV may possibly tilt the balance, and allowance might sometimes be made for time usefully spent outside the classroom at the expense of a perfect score of all As at GCSE.

What is the result of this process? In rough terms our last intake was evenly balanced between the sexes; with 40 per cent from state schools of whom well over half were from comprehensive schools; and just under 10 per cent from overseas. Sex equality has been produced (within two decades) on merit. It would be fatal if equal numbers of state/independent entrants were achieved on the basis of imposed quotas. Many are called; but few are chosen. Unless colleges remain free to make those choices on academic grounds even so powerful a brand name as Oxford may lose its force, further diminishing Britain's ability to compete on an international plane.

The author is President of Trinity College, Oxford.

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All responses will be received by a Panel made up of representatives from London Borough of Lewisham and SOLOTEC, and where appropriate added to the tendering list for contracts commencing April 1997.

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POSTS

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Mel Webb on the enduring appeal of a game that has survived an acrimonious split

Darts keeps to popular flight path in Purfleet

It is not pretty. There is fury and acrimonious claim and counter-claim. One side is utterly convinced that right is on its side, the other counters its opponents' statements with scorn and derision. There are tales of intrigue in smoke-filled rooms, of bitter inter-club conflict. The world of darts is a place where the riven with something close to all-out war. Ugly stuff.

So what is it that is so split asunder, so angrily divided? Could it be an alliance between two great political parties that has gone sadly wrong? And if it has a place on the sports pages, is it a battle for supremacy in the halls of the Olympic movement, or perhaps a division among the governing bodies of world football? Something that really matters to countless millions of people and is so split that there seems no possibility of rapprochement?

Darts. Yes, darts, the bar-room game that can be played wherever there is a 13½ in circular board, three small arrows a side, and a humble nail from which to suspend the target. It is beloved of millions, fleshes out drinking time every week for three million regular players in the United Kingdom and seems an innocent sort of activity, if one that sometimes struggles in its claim that it is a fully-fledged sport.

Sometimes in the comparatively recent past somebody decided that darts was to become a professional game, opening the floodgates to the pursuit of the ignoble quid. It became a huge spectator and television attraction in the Eighties, and won one of its leading practitioners, Eric Bristow, a lot of cash and an MBE. Bristow's gang gave the game a spurious sort of respectability; there was Eric, the Crafty Cockney himself, alongside worthy district nurses, long-serving dustbin men and veteran lollipop ladies.

The game gained television time and entered its golden age, its leading players the likes of Bristow, Jocky Wilson, John Lowe and Bob Anderson. These were the men who, their opponents allege, were protecting their fading pre-eminence by putting themselves in the vanguard of the great division in the game in 1993. At the heart of the split was the loss of television coverage. It would not do, the big names said: the lifeblood of darts was time on the box.

The outcome was two world



Taylor, "who might be the best player ever to hurl an arrow", on the oche at the Circus Tavern in Purfleet yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

"There is a capacity audience that joins together in daily obeisance to St Castlemaine, the patron saint of lager"

bodies — the British Darts Organisation and, by extension, the World Darts Federation, which stages the Embassy world championship that starts tomorrow in Surrey, and the breakaway World Darts Council (WDC). Bristow, Wilson and the rest nailed their colours to the mast of the WDC, which is holding its version of the world championship this week at the Circus Tavern in Purfleet, in Essex.

One thing to be said for the WDC is that it knows how to put on a show. Even in the group matches, which have been held during the week with the purpose of arriving at eight quarter-finalists, there is more

drizzle than in a dozen Cliff Richard concerts, there are scantily-clad young women bearing national flags, there is a capacity audience that joins together in daily obeisance to St Castlemaine, the patron saint of lager. And then there are the players.

These are no ordinary people. Among them are beer bellies of heroic proportions, testimony to a

lifelong pursuit of "one hundred and eighty" and its obligatory amber lubrication. They throw with uncanny and metronomic accuracy and have the subtraction skills of a computer, garbed in spangly shirts that make them resemble dancers who failed the audition for the paso doble section of *Come Dancing*, sporting Barbara Cartlands with attitude. They might look slightly

daft, but they most assuredly know their business.

The first prize of £45,000 is no trifling matter, and when the eight chosen men go to the oche before the Sky Sports cameras in the knockout stages today, the joint-favourite will be Phil Taylor, who might be the best player ever to hurl an arrow.

Taylor, the second seed and defending champion, has won two

Embassy titles and two WDC crowns, and is aiming to emulate Bristow's five world titles this weekend. He and Dennis Priestley, the top seed, are the men to beat.

At the end of it all, there will be a winner, who will claim he is the real champion of the world. Meanwhile, down at Frintley Green, the rest will be claiming the same thing. Who knows who is right? Further, is darts a sport or merely an agreeable pastime that outgrew itself? There is no doubt about it. Unequivocally, it is a sport — if it is good enough for the Queen and her Honours List, then it should be quite good enough for the rest of us.

IN BRIEF

Muster put off by ringing in his ears

THOMAS MUSTER, the top seed, angered by spectators using their mobile telephones, dropped a set and took more than two hours to beat Christian Ruud, of Norway, 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 for a place in the quarter-finals of the Qatar Open tennis tournament in Doha yesterday.

Muster cruised through the first set in 32 minutes but his game went to pieces in the second, when he became increasingly disgruntled by line calls and the constant ringing of telephones. At one stage, the Austrian screamed at a spectator: "Turn off your phone or get the hell out of here."

In today's quarter-finals, Muster meets Jim Courier, Sergi Bruguera takes on Petr Korda, Tim Henman, of Britain, comes up against the Swede, Magnus Gustafsson, and another Swedish player, Magnus Larsson, plays Hicham Arazi, of Morocco.

Collins defence

Boxing: Steve Collins will have a rare continental opponent when he makes the sixth defence of his WBO super-middleweight title next month. Frederic Seillier, of France, will be his opponent at the 12,000-capacity London Arena on February 8.

His six previous WBO championship fights have been against British boxers — Chris Eubank and Nigel Benn (both twice), Cornelius Carr and Neville Brown.

The Collins-Seillier bout will be one of four world championships on Frank Warren's promotion, one of the others being between the WBO featherweight titleholder, Prince Naseem, and the IBF champion, Tom Johnson.

Back on road

Cycling: The former world champion Lance Armstrong, of the United States, who is fighting to overcome cancer, has resumed training, the manager of his French team, Alain Bondue, said yesterday.

"He finished his chemotherapy on December 13 and had a good rest afterwards," Bondue said. "His morale is excellent and he hopes to return to international competition in May."

Armstrong, who won the world road race title in 1993 when he was 21, revealed last October that he had cancer of the abdomen and testicles.

Honours board

Basketball: Joe Whelton, of Manchester Giants, has been named Budweiser coach of the month for December. Whelton, who was coach of the year during his first spell with the Giants 13 years ago, took the prize after guiding his team to four victories last month.

The London Towers guard, Danny Lewis, has won the December player-of-the-month award.

SAILING: CREWS UNSCATHED DESPITE BATTERING BY HURRICANE

Tailenders home in tight finish

By EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THREE more yachts in the BT Global Challenge reached Wellington, New Zealand yesterday after some very close racing at the back of the fleet and after surviving one of the worst storms of the leg when they were caught by the tail of Hurricane Fergus.

The first of the trio to reach Lambton Harbour was *3Com*, skippered by David Tomkinson, which finished half an hour ahead of the disabled crew on *Time & Tide*, who were followed closely, in turn, by *Courtesy International*, skippered by Boris Webber in twelfth place for the leg.

Only the dismasted *Concert* and

Heath Insured II, which almost lost her mast, remain at sea. They are expected tomorrow. Hurricane Fergus caused no damage to the tail enders but produced some vicious winds and steep seas.

Ocean Rover, which finished early in the morning on New Year's Day in ninth place after nearly 42 days at sea, experienced the full force of it. Robert Bruce, a crew member, said: "In the Southern Ocean you know that a storm will last nine hours, but this one went on for 15. Instead of the waves being as large as three-storey buildings, Fergus produced skyscrapers which were so deep and steep. The seascape was officially 'phenomenal', with waves 14 metres high."

In the Vendée Globe, Eric

Dumont, of France, who broke his boom on Wednesday while several hundred miles south of Hobart, is still engaged in a struggle with the effects of the magnetic south pole. Because he has no gyro-compass on *Café Legat Le Gout*, his auto-pilots are unusable.

"My pilots haven't worked for three days," an exhausted and desperate Dumont reported from sixth place, about 2,700 miles behind the race leader, Christophe Auguin, also of France, on *Geodis*. "My controls are giving a position which changes every second. It is too much — I have to stop the boat to sleep or work and I am completely exhausted."

Latest positions, page 40

WEIGHTLIFTING: OLYMPIC CHAMPION CALLS HALT TO GLITTERING CAREER

Suleymanoglu bows to heavy load

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE weight of years and the demands of training became too much for Naim Suleymanoglu, of Turkey, yesterday when he announced that he is to retire from competitive weightlifting. Suleymanoglu, a native Bulgarian, captured the hearts of his adopted homeland by winning three Olympic gold medals during a glittering career at the top of his sport.

"I am now 30. It is enough. I am announcing that I am putting an end to my active sports life," he told the *Milliyet* newspaper in Ankara. Suleymanoglu became a national hero after winning his first Olympic gold medal at the Games in Seoul in 1988.

He has also won seven world championships, including two before he defected from Bulgaria in 1986. At the Olympics in Atlanta last year, Suleymanoglu, who is only 4ft 11in tall, broke his own world record with a combined lift of 738½lb in snatch and clean and jerk.

"Weightlifting has given me a lot, and it has given me a lot of joy," Suleymanoglu, who has been nicknamed the Pocket Hercules, said.

"My next target would have been the Sydney Games. But I cannot remain in active weightlifting for four more years," he explained. Suleymanoglu said that he wanted to continue working in weightlifting as a technical director or manager.

"But for now I only have one goal: to rest for a long while and catch up on all that I have missed out on in my youth," he said.

Born into an ethnic Turkish family, he was universally honoured and praised for helping to raise the profile of Turkish sport. When he returned home from leading championships, he would be carried on the shoulders of supporters who had gathered in their thousands.

Crowds of followers would also accompany him to championships to cheer him on, singing national songs and waving Turkish flags. He has been elected "sports personality of the year" in Turkey for six years in succession by readers of *Milliyet*.

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England's fall from graciousness can be traced back to Faisalabad

Poor sportsmen afflicted by siege mentality

Simon Barnes complains that losing is bad enough without sulking about it

In the old days, an England cricket team went abroad with three aims in mind: (1) to win a lot of cricket matches; (2) to act the missionary for England and for the game; and (3) to see the world and have a damned good time. Things have changed. True, a modern England cricket team still aims to win cricket matches. But all notions of missionarying have vanished, partly under the stresses of constant failure to fulfil aim one, and the very idea of having a good time is frowned upon. Try flying a Tiger Moth and see where that gets you.

On the tour of Zimbabwe, the England cricketers have failed to win any match worth winning and they have lost too many in utterly humiliating circumstances. But that is also the worst of it. They have also managed to get themselves roundly hated in a country that is remarkably mild-tempered and unchippy by Test match standards.

If you can't win, you can at least behave graciously, after all, you tend to cut a slightly more grown-up figure if you do so. Very few people are impressed by the sulks.

England have made an utter hash of the role of missionary in one of the few cricket countries where such a notion is still vaguely relevant. The England cricketers are coming across as poor sportsmen and poorer sports. As for enjoying themselves: well, perish the thought. The England cricket team have, I gather, been in a state of siege mentality from day one.

And that way lies disaster. A few weeks ago I watched a very small girl sitting by herself in an empty arena. Just sitting. She was Gina Gogean, the Romanian gymnast. She was enacting a standard piece of sports psychology, coming to terms with the place of competition. Learning to make friends with it, making the place an ally.

This is a basic part of the business of being a professional athlete. But the England cricket team not only neglect it; they actively cultivate hostility. And it is utterly counter-productive. Q.E.D.

Zimbabwe is a wonderful place: rich, beautiful, extraordinary. The cricket team have responded to its wonders by lurking about in the rear room of whatever hotel they find themselves in and playing a word game called Balderdash. Yesterday, by way of adventure, they went out to play golf against each other. Some, Nick Knight; Jack

Russell, attempt to see Fiddle, but most prefer the safety of the team hotel and the solace of each other's company. It is an approach that would turn Eden into a prison sentence. What a splendid idea it was, then, to bring in Ian Botham as a mediator. He, more than any other cricketer, is responsible for the bunker-seeking, we-ate-the-press mentality. These days, if you do not have abroad and have the press you are not fitting in, that most terrible of touring crimes.

Such an approach might be justified if it brought results, since that is the first aim of a touring party, but it does not. It has the reverse effect. And the worse the results get, the more a touring party becomes

wedded to it. For an England touring cricketer, life is a siege, the hapless victims surrounded by a kind country and people of goodwill.

How did England get like this? How did they learn this savage resentment of the outside, the real world? Alastair Campbell, the Zimbabwe captain, talked of England's "siege mentality" but that doesn't quite hit the mark. England seem instead torn in half, with an ancient superiority complex pulling one way and the more modern complex of inferiority pulling the other. Where did it come from, this colossal loss of self-belief? Was there one moment in which the self-confidence of a planetary shattered and broke?

What do they know of cricket who only cricket know? England lost the plot. They forgot the point of touring, the point of cricket, the point of sport. They lost matches, they lost friends. And, hurt and bewildered as never before, the England cricket authorities paid each member of the side a £1,000 "hardship bonus". This was nothing less than an up-you gesture at Shalimar Rana, Pakistan, and the world. Thus xenophobia was institutionalised.

Every tour since that moment in Faisalabad in December 1987 has been characterised by sulking resentment of the country, the team has visited and the opponents who represent it. Compare and contrast with Mark Taylor, the captain of Australia, who toured Pakistan with a wild determination to charm, to enjoy the country, its people and its cricket. Australia won both friends and cricket matches.

English cricket needs to take lessons in worldliness, in savoir-faire, in simple good sense and in gentlemanliness in challenging circumstances. I suggest England cricket tries to learn it from the Australians. They will soon have the opportunity to do so at close quarters.

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Getting and Shalimar Rana eyeball to eyeball in an infamous confrontation

ENGLAND'S OVERSEAS TEST MATCH RESULTS									
Season	Opposition	Result	Tests	W	L	D	Series	Season	Opposition
1977-78	Pakistan	L	4	0	1	3	1987-88	Pakistan	L
1977-78	New Zealand	D	3	0	0	3	1987-88	Australia	D
1978-79	Australia	W	3	0	0	3	1987-88	New Zealand	L
1979-80	India	L	4	0	0	4	1988-89	No tour	
1980-81	West Indies	L	4	0	0	4	1989-90	West Indies	L
1981-82	St Lanka	L	1	0	0	1	1990-91	Australia	L
1982-83	Australia	L	5	0	0	5	1991-92	New Zealand	L
1983-84	New Zealand	L	5	0	0	5	1992-93	St Lanka	L
1984-85	Pakistan	L	3	0	0	3	1993-94	West Indies	L
1985-86	India	L	3	0	0	3	1994-95	Australia	L
1986-87	West Indies	L	5	0	0	5	1995-96	South Africa	L
1987-88	Australia	W	5	2	1	2	1996-97	Cricket	
Total	Matches	58	15	18	21		Total	Matches	46
	Series	14	5	7	2			Series	8

Houghton's plan knocks out Atherton

FROM SIMON WILDE IN HARARE

IT IS hardly an original tactic but the rewards are too great for any opponents to ignore: undermine Michael Atherton and you undermine England.

The difference in the past six weeks has been that Zimbabwe have succeeded to an extent matched by few teams. A total of 178 runs in 12 visits to the crease, including 34 in four Test innings, tells its own story about the torments experienced by the England captain. It is one of the worst patches of his career — not helped, admittedly, by a recurrence of his back problem in the tour's early days — and has undoubtedly played its part in England's failure to dominate opponents who have delighted at any opportunity to deny them the right to feel superior over Test cricket's newest recruits.

From the very start it was my main tactic to give Atherton the hardest tour of all. David Houghton, the Zimbabwe player-coach, said yesterday, "England's batting has revolved around him for such a long time that I was convinced if he did not score runs it would affect others in the team."

As an opener, he was obviously going to be facing the new ball a lot and I told our bowlers to keep the ball pitched up to him and look to have him caught behind or leg-before. What we all had to do was cut out his favourite cut strokes.

The response from Houghton's bowlers has been remarkable. They have carried out his instructions to the letter in a way it is hard to imagine a group of English bowlers doing. They have relentlessly probed his technique, duly pitching the ball up, giving him little to hit on the off side and inviting him to attempt to play the ball through the on side, often with fatal consequences.

An analysis of Atherton's dismissals illustrates the point. He has been out leg-before once, bowled twice, caught at first slip twice and five times been caught attempting to hit the ball through the on side. Nor has this been the work of one or two key players: nine bowlers have claimed his wicket. Streak, Paul Strang and Olunga twice.

More often than not Atherton has failed to see off the new ball, something he used to do in his sleep, and although he has been criticised by some for dropping himself down to No 5 two days ago on the grounds that he should play the anchor role in one-day cricket or not play at all, it was noticeable that he produced one of his freest innings of the

tour in scoring 25 from 39 balls. He intends to bat at No 5 again today in the third one-day international.

Houghton attributes some of England's problems to the absence of an all-rounder. "They have lacked a genuine all-round cricketer and it has made the balance of their side awkward. In the first one-dayer they found themselves a bowler short, so for the second they picked two all-rounders, and ended up finding themselves a batsman short."

"People talk about our bits-and-pieces players but what we have is 11 batsmen and seven of them bowl. When we were 35 for four in the last match I just told our players that the pitch was not playing as badly as we were, runs were still coming at four an over, and that the remaining batsmen should go out there and get to work."

England made some fundamental mistakes in that game, notably Gough badly missing Andy Flower in the deep early in his innings, of 65 and Irani



Houghton: astute

taking too long to settle (and in the process depriving Crawley of the strike), but due credit must be given to the bowling of Strang and Guy Whittall.

"We normally bring Paul on in about the twentieth over of the innings but we held him back four overs longer to try a change of pace with Evans, who got away with two overs for six runs," Houghton said.

"By the time Paul came on to nearly five an over, which meant that England had to try hitting him, which against the turning ball is not easy. We never doubted he would pitch it in the right spot. As for Guy, he is often underestimated by opponents but he has been a thorn in the side of everyone we have played."

□ Tony Lewis, the former England captain, said yesterday that he was not surprised by the team's failure in Zimbabwe. "We cannot overlook the word talent," Lewis said. "All-rounders are a key area. We are struggling to find someone of Test class in that bracket."

Australia summons for Stuart

AUSTRALIA, with a number of fast bowlers hors de combat, have called up Anthony Stuart, of New South Wales, for Sunday's one-day international in Brisbane against West Indies.

Stuart, who topped the domestic bowling averages last season with 25 wickets at 13.40 apiece, replaces Paul Reiffel who pulled a hamstring during Wednesday's defeat by Pakistan in the World Series game in Sydney. Reiffel joins Craig McDermott, Damien Fleming and Jason Gillespie on the list of those unavailable.

Curtly Ambrose, who took nine wickets in West Indies' six-wicket win over Australia in the third Test last week, has hamstring trouble and could miss today's game against Pakistan, for whom Waqar Younis is doubtful with a sore shoulder.

West Indies also have concerns over Shivnarine Chanderpaul, their most consistent batsman. The Guyanese left-hander had a wisdom tooth removed three days ago and is still unable to take solid food. "He is still very weak after two days in bed," Courtney Walsh, the captain, said.

□ Australian Cricket Board officials are investigating claims that several Pakistan players, who claim they were victims of racism, were verbally abused by the crowd during the match in Sydney. Police arrested eight spectators for entering the playing area, including one man who shed stomach down into the stands, and removed 86 spectators for unruly behaviour. Another six were arrested on charges including offensive behaviour, assaulting police and resisting arrest.

Kirsten century rubs salt into India's self-inflicted wounds

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN (first day of five: South Africa won toss): South Africa have scored 280 for four wickets against India.

INDIA, hung a millstone round their necks as early as the second over of the second Test match against South Africa here yesterday, and it weighed on them, sometimes palpably so, for the rest of the play. It took the form of a dropped catch, shortly followed by another, and Gary Kirsten, the man they spared, went on to make 103 out of South Africa's first-day score of 280 for four.

From the slips and gully, where the chances went down, came complaints that the ball was difficult to sight from out of an advertising hoarding or perhaps the confetti of a shirt-sleeved crowd; but I am not sure that they were convinced of it.

It was a pity, because after the horrors of last week's Test in Durban, in which India were bowled out twice in what amounted to well under a full day's play, the touring side very much needed to start out on the right foot here.

Kirsten is too dogged, too experienced a player to look such a gift-horse in the mouth. He can be as adhesive in Test cricket as he is aggressive in the one-day game. Which England left-hander shall I liken him to? Perhaps Hugh Morris, of Glamorgan, is as good a comparison as any — a batsman whose fighting qualities could well have served England admirably had he been given more of a chance.

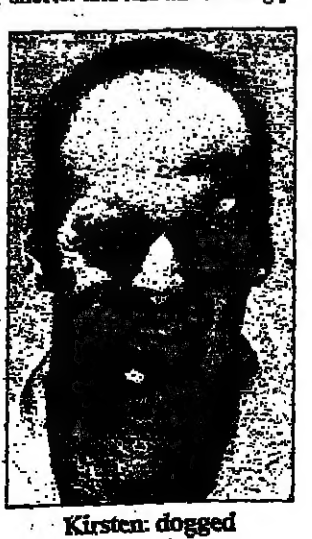
This was Kirsten's fourth Test hundred and took his

Test average into the forties. However, the purest batting of the day came from Cullinan, who plays the occasional stroke given only to the most highly gifted.

Any consolation India were able to take from the first hour would have come from the fact that they were not batting. Because of the catches that went down, Srinath and Prasad had nothing to show for 14 excellent overs, bowled at no great pace but to a good, full length.

The ball was usually doing a bit, mostly off the pitch, and a nice fresh breeze made it a lovely morning for bowling. With the gates closed, the ground was as full and the large pavilion as relatively empty as for the Test match against England a year ago, which meant an attendance of approximately 15,000.

Despite his four slips and a gully, Srinath's first six overs cost a mere two runs. As frustration overcame him later in the day, he bowled shorter and less threateningly.



Kirsten: dogged

though it was with a bounce that he had Bacher caught at the wicket down the leg side, hooking.

The tallest and most pylon-like of an unusually tall Indian side — half a dozen of them are six footers — is Srinath's junior partner, Prasad, and it was off him that Kirsten was dropped before he had scored and again when he was seven. Asharuddin put him down first, a low and two-handed chance at second slip off the eighth ball of the match.

The second opportunity fell to Kumble, in the gully, a chance that he might reasonably have expected to take 14 times out of 15.

One has always associated India's faster bowlers, and Pakistan's too, for that matter, with the northern frontiers of the sub-continent, but the four in this touring party all come from Bangalore, far to the south.

The third of them yesterday was Ganesh, playing in his first Test, and they are all graduates of the Pace Aca-

my in Madras, which, at the behest of the Indian Cricket Board, is presided over by Dennis Lillee, the great Australian. Unlike their mentor, they are not likely to frighten the best players out, but they should be good enough on their day to improve India's dismal record away from home.

By mid-afternoon, however, they were looking a considerable total in the face. It will be as well to wait for South Africa to bowl before saying it is a pitch on which everyone should get runs. It has a certain spring to it and South Africa are not in the habit of spending long days in the field here.

No one has scored a hundred against them in the four Tests played at Newlands (against India four years ago, Australia, Pakistan and England) since they came out of isolation.

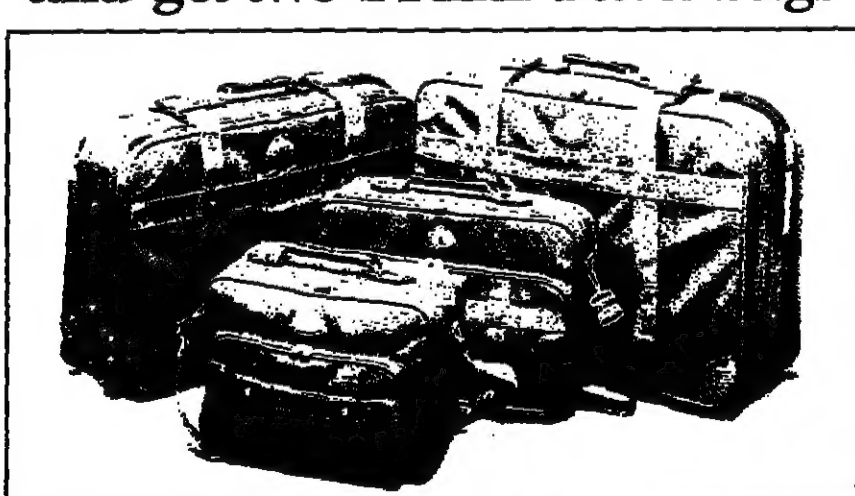
Kirsten's innings ended when he and Cullinan found themselves in the same crease. Cullinan having played a ball to square leg's left and changed his mind over a single when Asharuddin made an unexpectedly agile stop. Kirsten was already going flat out and, by the time he had put on the brakes and turned back, it was too late.

In the remaining 21 overs, Cullinan himself departed, caught at the wicket leg-glancing, and the clock overran by nearly half an hour, not least because Sachin Tendulkar places his field and changes it with such exaggerated care. He makes Brian Close, a great man in his day for half a yard this way and half a yard that, seem positively slapdash.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings	
A C Hudson c Mongia b Prasad	16
G Kirsten run out	103
A M Bacher c Mongia b Srinath	25
D J Cullinan c Mongia b Prasad	77
W J Crenny not out	35
B M McMillan not out	13
Extras (b 6, nb 5)	11
Total (4 wickets)	280
To bat: S M Pollock, D J Richardson, L Klusener, A A Donald and P R Adams.	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-37, 2-89, 3-203, 4-251	
BOWLING: Srinath 25-6-70-1; Prasad 20-1-74-2; Ganesh 13-4-45-4; Kumble 23-1-61-0; Ganguly 9-1-24-0	
INDIA: W V Raman, TN Mongia, R S Dravid, SR Tendulkar, S C Ganguly, M Asharuddin, VVS Laxman, A Kumble, J Srinath, B K Prasad, D Ganesh	
Unlabeled: D Har (Aus) and R Koorzen (SA) Third umpire: C Mitchell (SA)	
Match referee: B Jarron (Aus)	

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FOR ORDERS PLEASE TELEPHONE (01525) 851945 (24 HOURS)

David Powell on how the Spaniard put the brakes on a glorious career

Indurain's winning cycle draws to a halt

Within a month of Carl Lewis doing the same, Miguel Indurain, fellow Atlanta Olympic champion and competitor of rare distinction, announced his retirement from sport's big stage yesterday. Even as he spoke, though, Indurain left cycling wondering whether he has been premature in making his decision to ride into the sunset.

Indurain, the only man to win the Tour de France in five successive years, disclosed in Pamplona, his home town in Spain, that never again would he be seen competing in professional cycling. If widely predicted, the sense of loss was immediate nevertheless.

CAREER

Born: July 16 1964 in Vilva, Navarre, Spain. Height: 1.85m. Weight: 80kg. Turned professional: 1987. Team: Reynolds (1987-90), Banesto (1991-96). Major victories: One-day races: 1996 Olympic time-trial (Atlanta); 1995 World time-trial championship (Colorado); 1992 Spanish championship; 1990 San Sebastian Classic; Stage races: Tour de France (1991-1995) (winning 15 stages); Tour of Italy: 1992 and 1993 (four stages); Paris-Nice: 1993 and 1995; Criterium du Dauphine: 1993 and 1995; GP Midi Libre: 1996; Criterium International: 1989; Tour of Catalonia: 1988, 1991 and 1992; Tour of Asturias: 1996; Bicicleta Vasca: 1996; Tour of the European Community: 1993. World Hour record holder from September 2 1994 to October 22 1994 (53.040 km). Ranked No 1 cyclist 1992, 1993.

made worse for Indurain's refusal to concede that a record-breaking sixth Tour win might have been beyond him.

The decision has been tremendously difficult for me because, physically, I am in good shape and I think I might still be fit enough to win the much-desired sixth Tour," Indurain said. He shares with Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx and Bernard Hinault a record five Tour wins, though none of the other three achieved theirs in as many years.

Indurain, 32, and arguably the finest man the world has known, failed to win a sixth consecutive Tour last year.

and had to pull out of the Tour of Spain in September, a race in which, humiliatingly for him, he was ordered to ride by his sponsor, Banesto. "I do not want to ride but they have made me," the normally mild-mannered Indurain said.

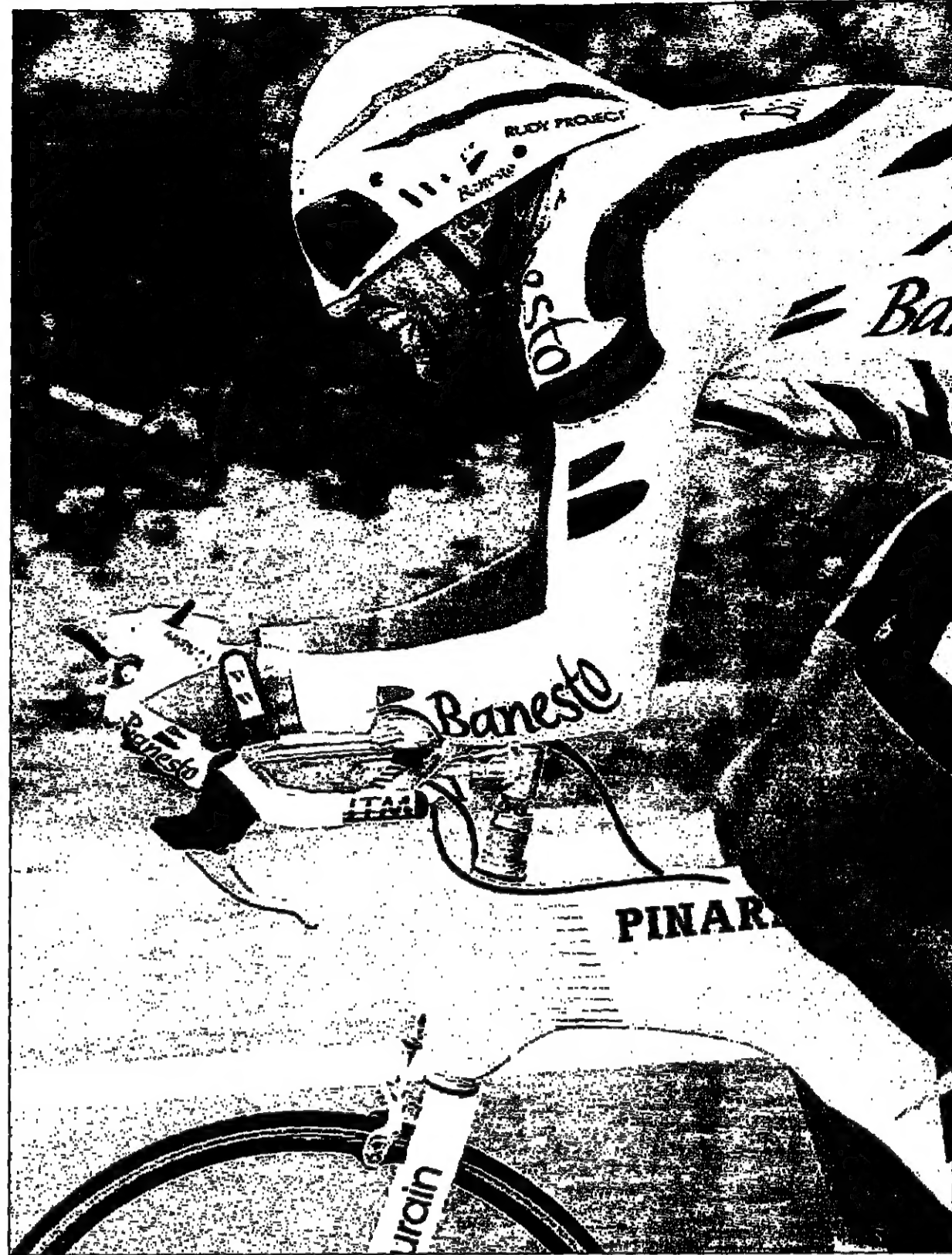
When Indurain withdrew on day 13, a testing mountain stage, after losing touch, speculation grew that he was about to quit. However, only yesterday, his contract with the Banesto team having expired at the end of 1996, did he end the rumours.

"In the early months of this season I started to turn over the idea that the time had come to give it up and to dedicate myself to the other facets of my life," he said. "I believe that I have dedicated sufficient time to competitive cycling and now I want to enjoy this sport as an amateur. I won the Olympic gold medal in Atlanta. It seemed the perfect close to my sporting career."

Indurain's Olympic victory came in the time-trial. His strength in the Tour had been his time-trialling, inviting debate as to whether the annual three-week, 2,500-mile race should be more mountainous. The climbers found it impossible to regain the ground lost to Indurain in the time-trials. He was not without success in the mountains, however, having won stages in the Pyrenees in 1989 and 1990 before his more calculating tactics took him to his first overall victory in 1991.

Likening himself to a lizard, because he functioned best in hot weather, Indurain was tall (6ft 3in), bronzed and rarely without his sunglasses. Despite his imposing physique — "Big Mig" was his sobriquet — his paucity of stage wins compared with other Tour legends and his dull press conferences meant that he was a largely anonymous figure.

Not everybody was convinced that the farmer's son was the best of the herd. He is not the best there has been, the argument went, because



Indurain displays the grit and determination that brought him five successive Tour de France victories

he concentrated on the Tour to the exclusion of most other challenges. Claude Jacquet, a senior official of the International Cycling Union, the sports world governing body, opined yesterday that Indurain could not be compared to Merckx.

"I cannot place him on the same level as his fellow five-time winner, Merckx, as Eddy wanted to win every race in the season whereas Miguel only wanted the Tour de France," Jacquet said.

Doctors were fascinated by Indurain's extraordinary lungs; he had a resting heart-rate of 28 beats per minute, a lung capacity of eight litres and a heart capable of pumping 50 litres of blood per minute for hours on end.

Only occasionally would a sportsman rival Indurain for popularity in Spain. Martin Fiz was one such competitor when he won the marathon at the 1995 world championships. Close friends, Fiz and Indurain had a common doc-

tor and physiologist in Sabino Padilla and the runner confessed to having been influenced by the cyclist. "His calmness, the way he always sticks to his own rhythm and never panics if someone breaks away, just little by little reeling them in," Fiz said of Indurain's qualities.

Calculations relating to Indurain's income vary. One source said he earned £1.5 million a year, another that his failure to find a team willing to pay him £5 million

for the 1997 season sealed his fate.

Indurain has probably pumped more in, though, than he has taken out. Jean-Marie Leblanc, director of the Tour de France, said that Indurain was not just a great rider. "He was a perfect gentleman," Leblanc said yesterday. "Always approachable, always willing to sign autographs. He was a great ambassador for the sport."

Popular hero, page 15

One-colour journalism

Paper Talk, Radio 5 Live, 10.05pm.

Here is further proof that Radio 5 Live can effortlessly hit its twin targets, news and sport, with one arrow. The charge it brings against the British press is that not one mainstream national paper has a black or Asian journalist working full-time on its sports desk. There must be some truth in the allegation, otherwise why should the Commission for Racial Equality have launched its campaign to encourage editors to employ more black journalists? Press-watchers and working journalists get the chance tonight to confirm or deny the existence of a colour bar. The Observer sports editor is one who insists that "quality and resources" are the only criteria that influence job decisions.

Composer of the Week, Radio 3, noon and midnight.

There are, as usual, two composers of the week. The midnight composer tonight is last week's midday choice, repeated. The noon composer today is Leonard Bernstein whose Broadway musicals have provided Humphrey Burton with an embarrassment of riches. His series ends today with *West Side Story*. The impact this musical made at its premiere in 1957 was phenomenal; rarely had a musical score so dynamically motivated stage action. Midnight brings the conclusion of a fascinating epistolary series about the lives of letters which, for 14 years, flowed between Tchaikovsky and his wealthy patroness, Nadezhda von Meck.

Peter Davatie

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe, includes News, weather and travel updates 9.00 Kevin Greening, includes the *John Peel* and *Mr Whippy's* organ 12.00 Nicky Campbell — The *Afternoon Lovecast*, includes *Triple*, *Tracker*, *3.00pm* Mark Goodier, includes *The Chart* Hour 7.00 *Pete Tong's Essential Selection* features the best new music 10.00 *One in the Jungle*, two hours of drum 'n' bass mix 12.00 *Radio 1 Rap*, show with *Tim Westwood* 3.30 *Music Review* 4.15 *World Today* 4.30 *BBC English* 4.45 *Britain Today* 5.30 *World Business Report* 5.45 *Sport* 6.00 *Focus on Faith* 7.00 *Chart* 7.25 *World of Faith* 7.30 *Midnight* 8.00 *World*, *Business*, *Rap*, *5.15* *Britain Today* 9.30 *People and Politics* 10.30 *World Today* 10.45 *Sport* 11.15 *Sight* 11.15 *Inside's Guide* 11.30 *Book Choice* 11.30 *Midnight* 12.30am *Seven* 12.45 *Britain Today* 1.30 *Outlook* 1.45 *Faith* 2.30 *Science in Action* 3.15 *Sport* 3.30 *Meridian* Live 4.30 *Jazz Now* and *Then* 4.45 *Seven Days*

RADIO 2

6.00am Nick Barnacough 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Alex Lester 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thresher 3.00 *Ed Stewart* 4.00 John Dunn 7.00 *World* 7.30 *World of Faith* 7.30 *Midnight* 8.00 *World*, *Business*, *Rap*, *5.15* *Britain Today* 9.30 *People and Politics* 10.30 *World Today* 10.45 *Sport* 11.15 *Sight* 11.15 *Inside's Guide* 11.30 *Book Choice* 11.30 *Midnight* 12.30am *Seven* 12.45 *Britain Today* 1.30 *Outlook* 1.45 *Faith* 2.30 *Science in Action* 3.15 *Sport* 3.30 *Meridian* Live 4.30 *Jazz Now* and *Then* 4.45 *Seven Days*

RADIO 5 LIVE

10.05am Robo Seplars 6.00 *The Breakfast Programme* 6.30 *The Magazine* 12.00 *Midday* with *Mark 2.05* *Russico* on *Five* 4.00 *Nationwide* 7.00 *News* 8.00 *Parish on Sport* 8.30 *Friday Sport*, presented by *Robin Bailey* 9.30 *Golf's Card School*, *Tony Adams* reports on the European PGA's qualifying school 10.05 *Paper Talk*, *Sat* *Chicks* 11.00 *Night Extra* 11.25 *News* *Walk Alone* (S) 12.05 *After Hours* 2.05 *Up All Night*

TALK RADIO

6.00am *Early Breakfast* 7.00 *Paul Ross* 9.00 *Tommy Boy* 4.00 *Drivetime*, with *Peter Dinkley* 7.00 *Mod. Des. Sportszone* 10.00 *After Hours* 1.00am *Jan Collins*

RADIO 3

8.00am *On Air*, with *Perry Gore*, *Mendelssohn* (Symphony No 4 in A, *Ballet*), *Michael Haydn* (Symphony in G, *7/8*), *Vaughan Williams* (Fantasia on a Theme by *Thomas Tallis*), *Turris* (La *Oracion del Torero*), *Prokofiev* (Sinfonietta), *8.00* *Morning Collection*, with *Cathryn Vaux*, *Vardi* (Re *Deum*, *Four Sacred Pieces*), *Tchaikovsky* (Symphony No 4 in F minor)

10.00 *Musical Encounters*, with *Edward Blakeman*, *Mozart* (Piano No 2 in C minor, *Op 18*), *Haydn* (Symphony classical, *H 10/10*), *Debussy* (Ensembles Nos 10-12), *Falla* (Nights in the Gardens of Spain)

12.00 *Composer of the Week*, *See Choice* 1.00pm *News*, *Chopin* By *Arrangement*, *Allegro* *Concert*, *Op 46*, *orch* *Nicola*. The third of four programmes in which *Jeremy Nicholas* explores *Chopin* compositions that have been reworked by others

2.00 *Preoccupations*, *Leading musicians talk of their hopes and fears for 1997* 2.15 *Music Restored* (1) 3.00 *Mining the Archive*, *Stephen Paster* presents a *Bethoven* broadcast from 1950, and discusses with *Melvin Blum* the *Catholic* nature of *Beethoven's* *Heiligenstadt* *Testament*

5.00 *Music Machine*, with *Sue Nelson* 5.15 *Interpretations on Record*, *Beethoven's six suites for unaccompanied cello*, *George* *Watts*, *Beethoven's* *Violin* *Concerto* *Op 61*, *recording* by *over 40* *performers* from *Casals* to *Heifetz*

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RADIO 4

5.55am *Shipping* (LW) 6.00 *News* 6.10 *Farming Today* 6.25 *Power for the Day* 6.30 *Today* 6.45 *Below the Surface* 7.00 *News* 7.05 *Desert Island Discs*, *Author* *Marin Anis* tells *Sue Lawley* which records he'd take (1) 9.45 *United States of America*, *Gavin Esler* ponders why there are such huge gaps between *clashes* and *riots* in *America* (S) 10.00 *Let's Make Our Towns Nice Again* (FM), *New series* aims to help up to 100 towns in Britain. *Roy Gossford* tours *Birkenhead* 10.00 *An Act of Worship* (LW) 10.15 *On This Day* (LW) 10.30 *Woman's Hour*, with *Sheila Macdonald* 11.30 *The National History Programme*, *Joanna Pinnock* and her *intrepid* team of *experts* answer *listeners'* *questions* from *around* the *world* 12.00 *You and Yours* 12.25 *The Food Programme*, *Andrew Jefford* investigates *wine*, *food* and *social* *issues* in *South Africa* 12.45 *Weather* 1.00 *The World at One*, with *Nick Clarke* 1.40 *The Archers* (1) 1.55 *Shipping* 2.00 *The Classic Series* *Alfie in Wonderland*, by *Lewis Carroll* (S) 3.00 *The Afternoon Shift*, with *Dave Graham* 4.00 *News* 4.05 *Kaleidoscope* *Unplugged*, *Tim Merlow* reviews a selection of the year's live highlights, including *performances* by *John Williams*, *Christy Moore* and *Dmitri Hvorostovsky*

FREQUENCY GUIDE

RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6, LW 198, MW 223, RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 89, 909, WORLD SERVICE, MW 605, LW 198 (12.45-5.55am), CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8, MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1093, Television and radio listings compiled by *Peter Dear*, *lan Hughes*, *Rosemary Smith*, *Susan Thomson*, *Jane Gregory* and *John Montgomery*

ICE SKATING

Olympian can climb higher

By JOHN HENNESSY

ANY conversation about British hopes for medals at the next Olympics would be certain to range far and wide. Yet, it is likely that such a conversation would ignore one of the best prospects this country possesses. His name is Nicky Gooch, who is not an athlete, carver or swimmer, but a winter competitor on ice.

Gooch, from Barnes, does not live in the glamorous world of triple axels, split twist lifts or the choctaws and mohawks of the ice dancers. He is a short-track skater, a discipline in which speed, guts and stamina are paramount, where elegance of costume or performance count for nothing. He promises to be the main attraction at the Tessa

British championships at Guildford today and tomorrow.

Gooch, 23, whose star is still on the rise, according to his coach, Alan Luke, won an Olympic bronze medal over 500 metres at Lillehammer three seasons ago and was disqualified from second place in the 1,000 metres. He was second in the 1500 in the world championships last year.

In the usual way, a short-track championship is decided over four distances, as it will be at Guildford, but for the Olympics only two events, 500 metres and 1,000 metres, are recognised, each a separate entity.

This places Gooch at a disadvantage, since his stron-

gest event is the 1500. The fourth race, over 300 metres, is also absent from the Olympic programme.

Yet, talented as Gooch is, he is unlikely to have it all his own way in tomorrow's final. Matt Jasper, of Nottingham, also 23, deprived Gooch of two of his British records, over 500 and 1000, last year, though Gooch later re-established himself over the longer distance.

In the women's event Debbie Palmer, like Gooch a Guildford-based skater, will be looking for her seventh successive title, her confidence boosted by encouraging performances last year — third in the European championships and eighth in the world.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Hetherington joins the team

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IN ADDITION to his role as chief executive of Leeds Rhinos, Gary Hetherington has taken the job of team manager from Hugh McGahan as a part of wide-ranging changes to the management structure at the Huddersfield club. Hetherington succeeds McGahan, who has returned to New Zealand to market the Super League there, and takes responsibility for players' contracts and transfer negotiations.

As coach and chief executive of Sheffield Eagles for 12 years, Hetherington proved himself an impressively versatile operator.

His latest appointment will not affect the day-to-day coaching duties of Dean Bell.

Indeed, Bell's remit is being extended to coaching the Leeds Alliance team as well as the first XIII. Rather than several assistant coaches, he will have specialist support in specific areas of skills, strength and conditioning and coaching from a six-man team.

"Coaching and management at this level are no longer a one-man job and our aim is to install a team of experts who can share responsibilities and give players every opportunity to fulfil their potential," Hetherington said.

Hetherington's appointment ruled out a move to Leeds by Joe Lydon, who resigned this week as the

Wigan team manager, although his name continues to be linked with the coaching and academy executive job at the Rugby Football League (RFL) made vacant by John Kear's move next week to Sheffield as football executive.

Jason Robinson, Henry Paul and Gary Connolly finish their short-term spells in rugby union on January 11 and should be available to Wigan for the rearranged second-leg challenge match at St Helens, either the next day or on January 19.

Valaiga Tuigamala will also play, unless Wasps can reach an agreement to keep him in rugby union until the end of the season.

SKIING

Wiberg holds upper hand in title race

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PERNILLA WIBERG will have an advantage over Katja Seizinger, her rival, when the pair resume their struggle for the women's overall Alpine skiing World Cup title in Maribor, Slovenia, today. Wiberg, of Sweden, boosted her confidence last weekend by clinching her second victory of the season in a slalom in Semmering, to take the overall lead from Seizinger, the absent title-holder.

Wiberg, who has 612 points to the German's 494, likes the technical events and will be more comfortable in the giant slalom today and the slalom tomorrow, than Seizinger, a speed specialist, who opted to miss the back-to-back slaloms at Semmering to train in her favourite speed disciplines. Seizinger, the 1993 super-

giant slalom world and 1994 Olympic downhill champion, was also weakened by a bout of influenza last month which forced her to pull out of a slalom in Crans Montana, Switzerland.

Although Wiberg is a 1991 world and 1992 Olympic giant slalom champion, she has had only one World Cup victory in this discipline, six years ago. Seizinger, who has celebrated the majority of her wins in downhill and super giant slalom, has four World Cup giant slalom victories to her credit.

This winter, Seizinger has made the rostrum at both giant slalom races so far, with a victory in Soelden and a third place behind Sabina Panzanini, of Italy, and the Austrian, Anita Wachter, in Park City, Utah.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (°C)	Last snow
ANDORRA Soldeu	30 155	good powder	good	snow	2/1
		(Excellent skiing with light powder on firm base)			
AUSTRIA Obertauern	40 140	good varied	fair	cloud	5 26/12
		(Plenty of snow well but some icy spots showing)			
Soi	20 60	fair varied	fair	cloud	2 24/12
St Anton	45 180	good varied	fair	wind	4 23/12
		(Plenty of good piste skiing; gusty winds)			
FRANCE Alpe d'Huez	95 250	good powder	good	snow	2 2/1
		(Excellent skiing with powder snow everywhere)			
Raïne	35 235	good powder	good	snow	4 2/1
		(Fantastic skiing but wind affecting some pistes)			
Méribel	50 140	good varied	fair	cloud	1 2/1
		(Snow in generally excellent shape; more snow forecast)			
La Plagne	100 190	good varied	good	line	3 2/1
		(Excellent skiing conditions on all pistes)			
S Chavallier	70 200	good powder	good	snow	2 2/1
		(Fresh powder on and off piste; poor visibility)			
Val d'Isère	80 250	good varied	fair	snow	6 2/1
		(Excellent skiing but zero visibility)			
Val Thorens	160 240	good varied	good	snow	2 2/1
		(Very windy at altitude; snow generally very good)			
ITALY Cervinia	180 350	good powder	good	snow	8 2/1
		(Wonderful powder but very poor visibility)			
SWITZERLAND Mürren	60 180	good varied	fair	cloud	1 30/12
		(Good skiing despite poor visibility; milder)			
Verbier	50 180	good varied	fair	snow	2 2/1
		(Tricky conditions with flat light; snow good through)			
Wengen	40 100	good varied	fair	cloud	1 30/12
		(Good piste skiing in all areas; some hard patches)			

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

HERMIONE

(c) *Leontes'* young queen in *The Winter's Tale*. Her affinity towards her husband's friend (Polixenes) seems to Leontes like flirting, and provokes his insane rage against both of them. She is bewildered but dignified, both after her arrest and at her trial. This dignity, and the charm of the domestic scene before her arrest (when she lets Mamillius whisper a bedtime story in her ear) make her one of the most sympathetic characters in the play.

SATURNINUS

(d) Villainous emperor of Rome in *Titus Andronicus*. Cuckold-husband of Tamora. The one determined act of his life is stabbing Titus at the end of the play, and he only works himself up to this after he has been served the heads of Tamora's sons in a pie and seen Titus stab Tamora before his eyes. Provocation enough, you think, for even this most ill-fated of emperors.

FLAVIUS

(c) Timon's steward. He is distressed by his master's career towards ruin — "I bleed inwardly for my lord" — but is unable to get his attention for long enough to stop it. After Timon's exile, he goes to visit him — "O you gods! Is yond despised and ruinous man my lord?" He is given the gold Timon has dug up on the bleak condition that he hate and despise the human race. Later, he brings the Senators to try to persuade Timon back to Athens. For all that his part is small, his loyalty and sincerity light up the play.

PHILOSTRATE

(a) Theocritus' master of the revels in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A ceremonious court official who arranges the wedding entertainment, including the rustic play, "A play there is my lord, some ten words long... / Which, when I saw rehearsed, I must confess, / Made mine eyes water..."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bg5! 16 2 Re1 - K17 3 Rxc3 4 Rxc8 - winning a piece and the game.

[illegible]

